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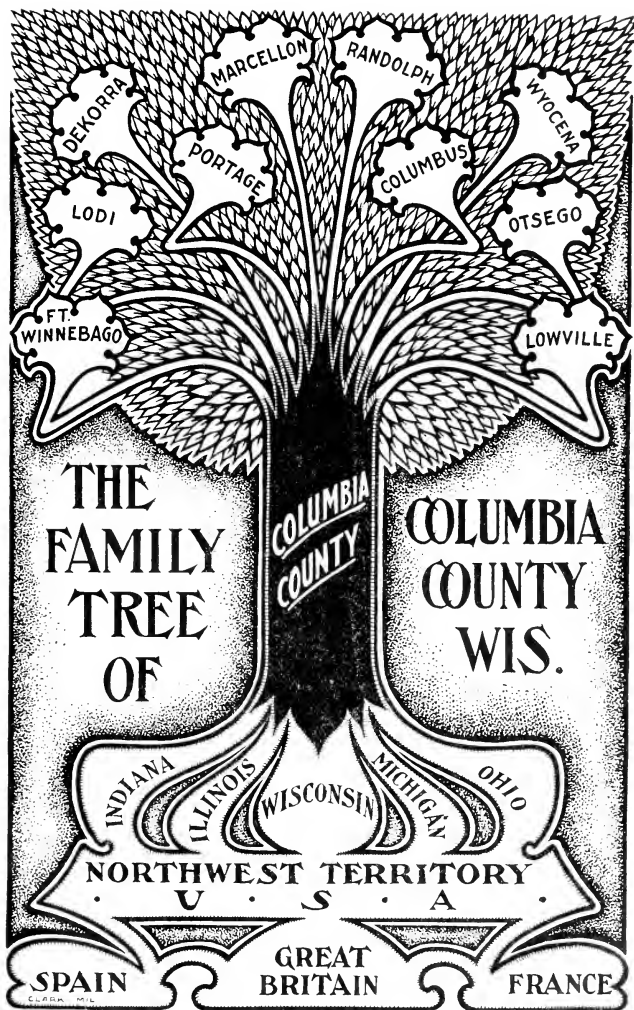
Book 2





FORT WINNEBAGO AS IT APPEARED ABOUT 1833.

Reduced photographic facsimile of oil painting made by L. A. Ridgway of Portage in 1898, in the Business Men's Rooms in the City Hall, Portage. The view is from the southwest. The building to the right of the gate is the guard house; to the left, the armory. On the opposite side of the square, to the left, were the officers' quarters. The peaked roof building at the left corner was a block house, and a similar structure was in the corner diagonally opposite. The magazine was in the corner to the right, and adjoining it, to the east, were the soldiers' quarters. The buildings to the south of the fort were an ice cellar, surgeon's headquarters, hospital and bakery, in their order. To the left of the fort was the log theater. At the end of the bridge to the right of the fort was the commissary store, a portion of which is still standing; to the left of it was Jones' sutler's store; to the right of the bridge was Merrill's sutler's store. The building on the opposite side of the river was Daniel Whitney's trading post. Just beyond the fort, to the right, were the stone stables, and to the left of it, on an eminence, was the Indian Agency building and Du Bay's trading post. On the banks of the Fox were the laundry, bath house, etc. The National cemetery was a short distance to the northeast. An eagle, carved out of a pine log, by a private soldier, about 1832, stood over the gateway and is preserved in the D. A. R. department of the Portage Public Library.



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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

What appears within these covers is largely the result of researches conducted at different times for articles for the columns of "The Wisconsin State Register," of which paper I was for a number of years one of the editors. Later on I prepared the maps which appear, showing the evolution of Columbia County, which are now published for the first time. The matter fell under the observation of Mr. S. C. Cushman, the County Superintendent of Schools, who expressed a desire to have it published for use in the school libraries of the county, and upon his recommendation the Board of Supervisors authorized its publication for that purpose. For this kind estimate of the value of the work I desire to make my most grateful acknowledgments to the Board and to the County Superintendent.

A. J. Turner,

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PREFACE.



In the preparation of the matter embraced within these covers, the sole purpose has been to bring together, in compact and convenient form for reference, such data as might be useful to those who would study the Family Tree of Columbia County, as they would that of their ancestral line, and gain a knowledge of its branches. As an introduction, brief references have been made to the early occupancy of North America, but nothing more, as that field is beyond the scope of a work of this character.

From its geographical position a complete history of Columbia County would cover a period extending back two hundred and seventy years when Jean Nicolet, who was the first white person to set foot upon the soil of Wisconsin, ascended the Fox River, in 1634, and it would comprise a complete history of the Northwest when it constituted a part of "New France," as it was designated, while its inhabitants were under the jurisdiction of Louis XV., King of France, before they became the subjects of George III., King of Great Britain.

Having, then, matters pertaining to Columbia County chiefly in view, I have procured from time to time, from unpublished official records, old letters from early settlers, the archives of the State Historical Society and the county records, and other trustworthy sources, the matter now published, which, it is hoped, will enable the student, or other person curiously inclined, to easily know the changes of the county from the time American Independence was established and the "Territory Northwest of the Ohio river" (as it was designated by the famous ordinance of 1787) was organized, of which Wisconsin was a constituent part, down to the present time.

The volume is not to be regarded in any sense as a "History of Columbia County" for no such lofty pretensions are made for it, but rather as a "hand book" that may be consulted for information concerning

various happenings in the county about which frequent inquiries are made. Those things given as "history" will, it is hoped, be found measurably free from serious error. While my own individual opinions have been freely advanced upon certain controverted points—and some radical views quite a variance with theories of historians of note have been expressed—they may be accepted or rejected, as the reader may be impressed as to their value, or lack of it. If it be considered that I have contended too strenuously that the Mascouten village and Allouez' Mission of St. James, are landmarks of Columbia County, I may plead, in extenuation, that local traditions concerning them are highly treasured, and the people of the county do not like to be despoiled of them by writers of our local history who give wide latitude to pens guided largely by lurid imaginations.

Although biography had not entered into the plan of this work, as it might very properly have done, it would hardly be excusable if more than brief mention were not made of the county's most honored fellow citizen, ex-Governor JAMES T. LEWIS, unless Luther S. Dixon, a former chief justice of the state, should be excepted. And so Gen. A. C. Parkinson, the governor's neighbor and intimate friend has, upon request, contributed the chapter on "Wisconsin's War Governor" as we all delight to refer to him, the only one, perhaps, aside from ex-Gov. Edward Salomon, (now living in Germany) of that illustrious galaxy of governors who administered the affairs of their states during the Civil War.

I am fully conscious of the fact that a perusal of these pages, given principally to dry details, will not be found so exciting as a historical novel, or as fascinating as an hour spent with the Autocrat of the Breakfast Table, but I indulge the hope that the youths of today, may, with their aid, acquire a more thorough knowledge of the genesis of Columbia County than they could otherwise do, without long and tedious research, and if this shall be the case I may feel that my earnest desires have been measurably accomplished.

The various chapters of this volume, not forming a continuous "story," have been placed in it with small regard to any established order, for the printing of it was commenced before it had been fully decided upon what was to appear in it. Many chapters that had been prepared for it are necessarily omitted, as it was found that the volume was being expanded far beyond what was originally contemplated.

Hoping that I have not laid myself open to the criticism of having given too much attention to matters of minor importance, trivial of themselves, as it may seem to some, but which in my judgment, should be chronicled while they could be, I commend to the students of Columbia County a careful study of its "FAMILY TREE," and indulge the hope that they will be benefited by it.

A. J. Turner.

Portage, Wis., July, 1904.





A. J. TURNER

The Family Tree of Columbia County.

CHAPTER I.

UNDER TRANS-ATLANTIC DOMINION.

Because of early discoveries by her navigators and inland explorers, Spain laid a general but undefined claim to the greater part of the wilderness of North America, to which the name of Florida was given. This condition of affairs lasted from about 1512 until the irruption of the French who penetrated the continent by means of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers and the Great Lakes, and gradually made claim to the inland water systems, as fast as discovered by their adventurous traders and missionaries. It should be understood, however, that within this vast territory there were few, if any, Spaniards nearer than the Gulf of Mexico. —R. G. Thwaites, Secretary of the Wisconsin State Historical Society.

Columbus discovered America in 1492; and so had Leif Erickson in 1000, and other Scandinavian seamen had made excursions to points on the western continent prior to either of them. Fiske, the eminent historian, very justly surmises "that there may have been more such occasional visits than we have been wont to suppose," for claims are made that Chinese, Arabs, Welsh, Venetians, Portugues, Poles, Phœnecians and Irish navigators looked upon the western continent before Columbus did, all of which are supported with evidence more or less convincing; but nothing of value had followed these predatory visits of roving seamen to our shores, as what they discovered never was made known to the world, or had been entirely forgotten, while Columbus' expedition, probably, was made without knowledge of the visits of others five hundred years before, and it had a definite purpose in view, as well. And so to Columbus should be accorded the honor of the discovery of the western continent, and the beginning of America should date from it, for the contact between the two worlds began from the date of his visit to it in 1492.

Spain's discovery of America, and the establishment of a colony in it, gave much plausibility to her claim, never very strongly asserted, of right of dominion over the entire western continent, but having failed to extend her "sphere of influence" very far away from the coast line,

small regard was given to her claim of possessions beyond the territory she actually occupied, and not overmuch as to that. Discovery was one thing; ability to occupy, possess and maintain possession of what had been discovered was quite another thing. The strongest arm carries the baton of authority, by whomsoever wielded, with small deference to the morality of it. So France and Great Britain, as Spain already had done, proceeded to establish their own colonies on the newly discovered continent.

Spain had the honor of establishing the first permanent colony in North America, in St. Augustine, Florida, in 1565; the French planted the second colony in 1604, at Port Royal, Acadia, (the original name of Nova Scotia), and the English the third at Jamestown, Va., in April, 1607, which was the first permanent settlement of the English in America.

The territorial limits of the territory claimed were not, at first, definitely defined. It was to be left to future events to determine the extent of the possessions of the different nations that were invading the continent. But when Jacques Cartier sailed into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, in 1534, the basis for a claim of dominion of territory, of undefined extent, on the part of France, was laid. In 1608, authority over "New France," as the territory occupied by her was called, was inaugurated by the appointment of Samuel de Champlain as Intendant, (Governor.) What comprised New France, then? When St. Lusson, at Sault Ste. Marie, on the 14th of June, 1671, took possession of the whole country bounded by the seas on the north, west and south, "In the name of the Most High, Mighty and Redoubtable Monarch, Louis, Fourteenth of that name, Most Christian King of France and Navarre," and when Sieur La Salle, in 1682, on reaching the mouth of the Mississippi, erected a column and a cross, bearing the arms of France and inscribed upon it the words, "Louis the Great, King of France and Navarre, reigning, April 9, 1682," and formally took possession for France of all of the country watered by the Mississippi, it became apparent that Louis XIV., the "High, Mighty and Redoubtable Monarch" across the seas, had some very ambitious designs, and his "imperial eagerness" began to be displayed. The eastern limits to possessions claimed by St. Lusson, had, with much prudence, been left undefined. Bounded in part by the

seas to the northwest and south, how far she might claim dominion toward the sea to the east was to be determined later on.

When Champlain became Intendant of New France, in 1608, the occupation of the territory comprising Wisconsin became, by a succession of events, a dependency of France and her affairs were to be administered by Louis XIV. French dominion continued until the termination of the Seven Years War between France and Great Britain, when the *Fleur de Lis* of France was lowered to the ensign of George III. on the Plains of Abraham on that eventful day, in 1759, and the ambitious dreams of the rulers of France of vast empire in the new world, under their dominion, had departed forever. Great Britain was now in undisputed possession of all the territory in the northwest east of the Mississippi, and what we now call Wisconsin, had passed under the dominion of George III., King of Great Britain.

While occupying that relation to the crown, a government was established, 1774, over the northwest, under which Wisconsin became a part of the English colony of Quebec. This relation continued until the revolt of the colonies, in 1775, which terminated, in 1783, in American independence. Prior to the declaration of independence the Colonies, in an informal manner, had established a Continental Congress for consideration of public affairs concerning them, which culminated in the Declaration of Independence, in 1776, which our people celebrate so patriotically each recurring Fourth day of July. A committee of this Congress had reported to it "Articles of Confederation" for the government of the colonies now in revolt, but action on them was deferred until near the close of 1777. The Articles could not take effect until all of the thirteen colonies had ratified them, and it was not until 1781 when Maryland, the last one to do so, gave in its assent. The United States of America had no existence as a government, under a fundamental compact, until the spring of 1781. The Continental Congress, with little control or authority "bore for nearly fifteen years the symbol of Federal authority."* In 1787 Congress called a convention for a revision of the "Articles of Confederation," which had been found wholly unsuited to the conditions of the country, and a constitution was drafted that year, and having been finally ratified by the requisite num-

*Schouler.

ber of states, it was promulgated, in 1789, as the "Constitution of the United States of America," under which, with its amendments, we now live.

It is difficult to realize at this time that Wisconsin was ever subject to the dominion of Kings. "It seems more like a dream," as J. P. Dunn, Jr., the historian of Indiana has so well observed, "than the sober truth of history, that the approval of Louis the Great, was prerequisite to the exploration of her lands, and commercial intercourse with her naked denizens; that Louis XV. held in his hands the supreme power over the welfare of her first settlers. Her seat of government vacillated between Quebec, New Orleans, and Montreal, with intermediate authorities at Fort Charters and Detroit and the ultimate power at Paris. Then her capital was transferred to London by the treaty of Paris, which terminated French dominion, and sixteen years later it came over the Atlantic to Richmond, on the James, by conquest, and after tarrying five years at that point, it shifted to New York City, then the national seat of government. In 1788 it reached Marietta, Ohio, which had been made the capital of the "Territory Northwest of the Ohio River." Settlers in Wisconsin were rare during these years, and probably there was not a single inhabitant, aside from the aborigines, in the limits of Columbia County, while Wisconsin was under French and English dominion.

And so the territory embraced within the limits of Columbia County, if Spain's claim of dominion, which was but nominal, be admitted, had been successively under—

Spain, from.....	1512 to 1634
France, from.....	1634 to 1763
Great Britain, from.....	1763 to 1783
United States, from.....	1783 to date

CHAPTER II.

UNDER TERRITORIAL CONTROL.

When the Colonies emerged from their struggle with the mother country, and their independence had been acknowledged, and a treaty of

peace concluded, in 1783, the United States found themselves possessed of all that vast territory lying in the Northwest, which included the present states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin and that portion of Minnesota lying between the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers. The whole of this territory was claimed by France from 1634 to 1760, although formal possession of it was not taken until 1671, when, by the termination of the war which had been waged between France and Great Britain, it was relinquished to the British in 1763. Claims to portions of it had been made by various states based upon grants to chartered companies, (disregarding the claim of France to sovereignty), but those of Massachusetts and Virginia alone affected any portion of the present county of Columbia. The claim of Massachusetts, to some portion of it, was based upon a charter granted in 1691 by "Charles, King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland," to the "Council established at Plymouth." It conveyed to them a vast tract of territory described as extending "from the Atlantick and Westerne Sea on the West parte, etc." This grant embraced all of the south third of Wisconsin, including Columbia County. The full text of the boundaries of the grant are given to show with what reckless generosity rulers across the seas disposed of empires they were exercising dominion over, of whose future they had little knowledge and less concern:

All that Parte of Newe England in America aforesaid, which lyes and extends between a greate River there Comonlie called Monomack alias Marriemack and a certen other River there, called Charles River, being in the Bottom of a certayne Bay there comonlie called Massachusetts, alias Mattachusetts Bay, and also all and singular those Landes, and Hereditaments whatsoever, lyeing within the Space of three English Myles on the South Parte of the said Charles River, or of any, or everie Parte thereof: and also, all and singular, the Lands and Hereditaments whatsoever, lyeing and being within the space of three English Myles to the Southwarde of the Southermost Parte of the Saide Bay called Massachusetts, alias Mattachusetts, alias Massatusets Bay: and also all those Landes and Hereditaments whatsoever which lye, and be within the space of three English Myles to the Northward of the said River called Monomack, alias Merrymack, or to the Northward of any and every Parte thereof and all Landes and Hereditaments whatsoever, lyeing within the Lymitts aforesaid, North and South in Latitude and bredth, and in Length and Longitude of and within all the Bredth aforesaide, throughout the Mayne Landes there, from the Atlantick and Westerne Sea and Ocean on the East Parte to the South Sea on the West Parte.

It is quite unnecessary to dwell upon the sufficiency of this grant, or of any other of the grants affecting the Northwest territory, for they were all relinquished to the Confederation by the several states by the passage of the famous ordinance of 1787, establishing a government for *The Territory Northwest of the River Ohio*. In July, 1788, its territorial government was formally organized, Arthur St. Clair having been appointed Governor.

Prior to the arrival of Gov. St. Clair at Marietta, a code of laws had been made by the settlers for their government which, on the 4th of July of that year, 1788, was formally promulgated by being "tacked up on the smooth bark of a beech tree," there being no printing presses in the territory at that time. Such were the primitive beginnings of American rule of the territory which now embraces Wisconsin and Columbia County. In celebrating its centennial, the Hon. George F. Hoar, who made an address on the occasion, alluded to the event most felicitously, as follows: "Here was the first human government under which absolute civil and religious liberty has always prevailed. Here was no witch ever hanged or burned. When older states or nations, where the chains of human bondage have been broken, shall utter the proud boast 'with a great price I obtained this freedom' each sister of this imperial group, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin, may lift up her queenly head with the yet prouder answer, 'But I was born free.' "*

On the 15th of August, 1796, Governor St. Clair issued a proclamation establishing the county of Wayne. This county included that portion of Wisconsin "enclosing the lands upon the streams emptying into the said lake" [Michigan] and "old settlers" of Columbia County—there were a few of them here prior to that time—found themselves in the county of Wayne, Northwest Territory, with their territorial capital at Marietta, and county seat at Detroit, or were left wholly outside of any county organization, according to their location. The boundary lines of Wayne County, thus established, were so indefinite, especially

*This statement, historically considered, was not absolutely correct, for slaves, to a limited degree, of course, were held in the Territory when it was organized, and some were held for many years after the adoption of the ordinance, including Wisconsin, notwithstanding its clearly expressed purpose to forever prohibit it. Other clauses appeared in the ordinance which, the courts subsequently held, rendered the prohibition clause inoperative. See Dunn's *History of Indiana*, "Slavery proviso," p. 215. In fact, while the ordinance served a most valuable purpose, much doubt has been cast upon the legality of any portion of it.

as to that part of the county which was made to include a portion of the present county of Columbia, that no attempt to locate them with exactness was made by surveyor or historian. It is well that no question ever arose that made their delimitation necessary, for the boundaries of Venezuela and Alaska were simple propositions in comparison with the boundaries of Wayne County. Lay a map of Columbia County before you and you will see that Fox River, having its source in a small lake [Lake Sarah] in the town of Randolph, flows in a south-westerly direction, some twenty-five miles or more, and when within a mile and a half of the Wisconsin River abruptly changes its course to the northwest and discharges into Lake Michigan through Green Bay. Another stream, the Duck Creek, having its source not far distant from Lake Sarah, runs parallel with the Fox, but instead of changing its course, like the Fox, it keeps its direction and empties into the Wisconsin River. The branches of these two streams reach out in close proximity to each other, almost intermingling in some places, but their waters find the oceans in opposite directions, the Fox through the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence in the Atlantic Ocean, and the Duck Creek through the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers in the Gulf of Mexico. There are many other such instances to the north of Portage where waters of streams, flowing in opposite directions, almost blend and leave it uncertain where the boundaries of Wayne County really were. In writing upon the physical features of the town of Randolph many years ago, Hon. Wm. T. Whirry presented the situation in that town so admirably that his language is adopted entire:

What streams we have in town start from springs, except the one on the marsh on section 1, through which the small outlet of Lake Emily runs. We are pretty well up in the world, having a position on the boundary or divide between the valley of the Mississippi and the valley of the St. Lawrence, and on many farms the rain as it falls divides, and finds its way to the ocean by different routes, a portion by the Gulf of Mexico and a portion by the St. Lawrence, so we have no fears of the greatest freshest doing us any damage. But I must not omit to mention that the celebrated Fox River takes its rise here at Lake Sarah, on the line between sections 4 and 5.

At some points in Portage cabins also could have been found where the rains falling on the roofs would flow in opposite directions, and an occupant of them would at one moment be in Wayne County, Northwest Territory, and the next one would be in no organized territory. A person living on the banks of Duck Creek, in Columbia County,

seeing its waters flow to the Wisconsin River, would aptly conclude that he was in "unorganized territory," but when he arose in the morning, after a heavy rain, he might find that the stream had reversed its current in the night and was actually flowing up stream, and then he would be apt to conclude that he had become a resident of Wayne County, Northwest Territory. Here we must leave our distressed "old settler" in his dilemma to find out "where he was at" without our assistance, as he will do in ample time, when the waters of the Wisconsin have subsided. And so what may appear to the reader absurd, as a stream reversing its current and "running up stream," is not so very strange at all, for the apparent phenomena is easily explained by natural causes. The Duck Creek is a slow, turgid stream, as it nears the Wisconsin River, and when that stream rises much above its usual stage it simply drowns out the Duck Creek, causing it to reverse its current and, overflowing its banks, its waters find their way across the low lands between it and the Fox and discharge into that stream. It is, perhaps, the only place in the world where such conditions exist.

IN INDIANA TERRITORY.

The next change affecting the political status of the residents of Columbia County, after the organization of the Northwest Territory, was in 1800, when the Territory of Indiana was erected which included all of the present state of Wisconsin, with the seat of government at Sainte Vincennes on the Wabash." William Henry Harrison was appointed its governor, and thus became our first governor while we were under the jurisdiction of Indiana, as he had been our first delegate in Congress while we were in the northwest Territory. While Wisconsin constituted a part of Indiana Territory she formed no part of any organized county.

MICHIGAN TERRITORY.

On the 11th of January, 1805, Congress passed an "act to divide the Indiana Territory into two separate Governments," which provided that "all that part of the Indiana Territory which lies north of a line drawn east from the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan until it shall intersect Lake Erie, and east of a line drawn from the southerly bend of said lake to the northern extremity, and thence due north to the northern boundary of the United States, shall for the purpose of temporary

government constitute a separate territory and be called Michigan."

Detroit was established as the seat of government until Congress should otherwise direct. This left Wisconsin still attached to Indiana, however, with the capital at Sainte Vincennes on the Wabash, but it was not included in any organized county.

IN ILLINOIS TERRITORY.

An old settler of Wisconsin did not long owe allegiance to Indiana, for, in 1809, the Territory of Illinois was carved from it, which included Wisconsin, but its boundaries were so defined that a small fraction of Door County, Wisconsin, being east of the meridian line designated as the boundary line between Indiana and Illinois, extended north, was left unattached to any territory, but upon the admission of Illinois into the Union as a State, in 1818, all of the territory lying west of Michigan Territory and north of Indiana and Illinois was attached to and made a part of Michigan Territory, so the isolated territory [in Door County] now became a part of the Territory of Michigan, and that with the county bordering generally on Lake Michigan was made a part of Michilimacinac County at the same time Gov. Cass established the counties of Brown and Crawford west of Lake Michigan.

While Illinois had been a part of the Northwest territory, Governor St. Clair had, in 1790, laid off the county of St. Clair, but it embraced no part of Wisconsin, which was left in unorganized territory. Governor Edwards, in 1809, laid off the counties of Randolph and St. Clair. The latter county contained the territory of Columbia County, and Kaskaskia was the capital of the Territory, as well as the county seat of St. Clair, and it was to Kaskaskia that our old settlers would have had to go to exercise their suffrages and transact their county business.

On the 14th of September, 1812, Gov. Edwards issued a proclamation dividing St. Clair County and creating the county of Madison, the southern boundary of which was "To begin on the Mississippi, to run with the second township line between Indiana and Illinois Territorie." All of the territory north of that line containing the whole of Wisconsin was included in the county of Madison and its seat of justice was designated as being "The house of Thomas Kirkpatrick." It is not recorded that any "old settler" ever exercised the rights of citizenship at

the house of Thomas Kirkpatrick but probably none did. Tradition has it that this house was situated within the present city of Edwardsville.

The next change that occurred to affect the status of our old settler was in 1817, when the town of Silver Creek, Madison County, was organized, which embraced within its limits nearly half of Illinois and all of the present state of Wisconsin.

The center of political activity in Silver Creek, where our old settlers would have been called to go to attend the caucus was in the southwest part of Madison county in what is now called Olive.*

However, no one in Columbia County had occasion to make many visits to Silver Creek, for the next year another important change in territorial boundaries took place.

IN MICHIGAN TERRITORY.

On the 3d of December, 1818, Congress passed an act admitting Illinois into the Union as a state and in adjusting its boundaries the whole of the territory comprising the present state of Wisconsin, was remanded to the jurisdiction of Michigan and our "old settler" became an inhabitant of the county of Wayne, Mich., with Detroit as the capital, as he had once before been an inhabitant of Wayne County, Northwest Territory.

On the 26th of October of that year Governor Lewis Cass issued his proclamation establishing the counties of Brown and Crawford. Michilimacinac bordering on Lake Superior, was also made a county but it had no application to our old settler. The dividing line between Brown and Crawford Counties ran directly north and south from Illinois

*The Court of Common Pleas of St. Clair County had subdivided the territory comprised in what was afterward Madison County, but the county court of Madison County re-organized these political sub-divisions of the county, then called townships and precincts. They were called Six Mile Township—Big Prairie—Wood River—Goshen—and Silver Creek. Silver Creek township began where the range line between seven and eight intersects the north boundary line of St. Clair County, thence due east to the Bond County line, thence north. No limit on the north, so as to include all inhabitants north of Goshen and Wood River townships. These were the limits of Silver Creek township in 1817, and the township was from time to time reduced in size, but kept its name until 1876, since when it has been called "Olive." It kept the name of Silver Creek for over fifty years. If Wisconsin was a part of Illinois territory as contemplated [as it was] then it was in Silver Creek township, Madison county, Ill.—*Jessie Palmer Weber, Librarian Ills. State Historical Society.*

through the center of the "portage," and a resident of Columbia County would have been an inhabitant of either of the counties of Brown or Crawford, according to his location east or west of that line; if east of it, he was in Brown County; and if west of it he was in Crawford County.* In 1834 the boundaries of Brown County were extended to the Wisconsin River.

This division of the territory into counties remained until 1829, when Iowa County was organized, which was made to include that portion of the present county of Columbia lying west of a north and south line drawn through the center of the "portage" and east of the Wisconsin River, thus putting all of the towns of West Point and Lodi, and portions of the towns of Arlington, Dekorra and Pacific and so much of the city of Portage as was west of the line referred to and as was south of the "portage" and east and south of the Wisconsin River, in Iowa County, leaving all of Caledonia in Crawford County.

IN WISCONSIN TERRITORY.

By an act of Congress approved April 20, 1836, to take effect from and after the third day of July following, the territory of Wisconsin was created. While the territory constituted a part of Michigan Territory Congress had, in 1834, greatly increased its limits by adding to it, for judicial purposes, a large extent of country west of the Mississippi, reaching south as far as the present boundary line between the states of Iowa and Missouri; north to the territorial line between the United States and Canada; and west to the Missouri and White Earth rivers, which would include all of Iowa, Minnesota and portions of North Dakota and South Dakota. On Sept. 6, 1834, the Legislative Assembly of Michigan established the County of Milwaukee, with the town of Milwaukee as the county seat, containing at that time scarcely 100 inhabitants within its boundaries. The county embraced the six south-east towns of the present county of Columbia but there was no contention about the county seat, for there was not a white person at that time within their borders, and was not at the time they were set off into Port-

*A line drawn north and south directly through the center of the "portage" would perhaps cross the Wisconsin River, in town twelve, range nine, and put a portion of Caledonia in Brown County; but as it is not certain that such would be the case all of the territory west of the Wisconsin will be regarded, in what follows, as having been in Crawford County.

age (Columbia) county in 1836, the first entry of land in these towns having been made in 1839.

So our old settler has been a resident of—

The Northwest Territory, from.....	1787 to 1800
Indiana Territory, from.....	1800 to 1809
Illinois Territory, from.....	1809 to 1818
Michigan Territory, from.....	1818 to 1836
Wisconsin Territory, from.....	1836 to date

CHAPTER III.

We are now brought to the beginning of Columbia County (first designated as Portage) which was set off from Brown and Crawford counties by act of the territorial legislature approved December 7th, 1836, the Territory of Wisconsin having been organized that year. The county was almost identical with the present county of Columbia except a portion of Caledonia,—town twelve, range eight—which remained in Crawford County, but it also included the western tier of towns of Dodge County, and fractional town ten, ranges six and seven in Sauk County, the nucleus of a settlement having already been established on "Sauk Prairie" whose political and business relations were, at that time, with the settlements on the east side of the river.

By act of the Legislature, approved Jan. 2, 1838, the country included within the limits of Portage County was set off into a separate town, by the name of "Lowe"* and the polls of election were established at the "Indian Agency House" near Fort Winnebago. The polls were never opened, however, for ten days later another act was passed rearranging the boundaries of the county and establishing the county seat at Kentucky City (Dekorra).—*Chapter 18, Section 33, Laws of 1838.*

This act provided:

That townships number ten, range six, township number ten, range seven, townships number ten and eleven, in range eight, townships ten, eleven, twelve and thirteen, in ranges nine, ten, eleven and twelve, east of the fourth principal meridian, and the territories within the following described boundaries, viz: Crossing the Wisconsin River on the township line between ten and eleven, six miles due west; thence up in a line parallel and six miles from the west shore

*Erroneously printed in Snyder & VanVechten's Historical Atlas as "Iowa."

*of said river, to a point opposite to the "Upper Rapids" thereof, and thence due east to said rapids, be, and the same is hereby established and declared to be a county, with the name of "Portage" and the seat of justice is hereby established at 'Kentucky City' (Dekorra).**

This brought into Portage County such portions of Fairfield, Delton and Dellona (now in Sauk County) as were within the six mile strip; and it also brought into the county all of town twelve, range eight, which had been isolated from Crawford County altogether by the erection of Sauk County in 1840 and left it unattached to any county.

This act, it will be observed, omitted the towns in range thirteen, (Fox Lake, Westford, Calamus and Elba) which were transferred to Dodge County.

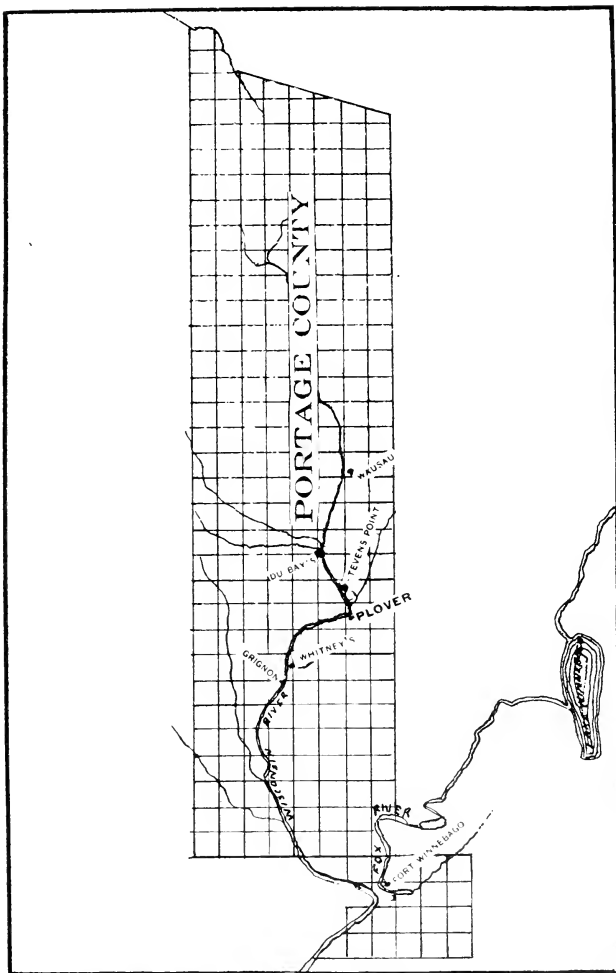
On February 18th, 1841, an act of the territorial legislature was approved which provided for enlarging the boundaries of Portage County, as follows:

All that district of country lying immediately north of the counties of Sauk and Portage [the county of Sauk had been organized in 1840] and comprised in ranges two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight and nine east of the fourth principal meridian and extending to the northern boundary of the territory north, *except fractional townships fourteen and fifteen north in range nine east,†* shall be and the same is hereby annexed to and made a part of the county of Portage.

This embraced all of the present counties of Columbia, Adams, Juneau, Wood, and the eastern parts of Taylor, Price and Iron and the western portions of Marquette, Portage, Marathon, Lincoln and Langlade.

*It will be noticed that the boundary of the county on the west was to commence at a point "crossing the Wisconsin River on the Township line between towns ten and eleven" and that the line was then to run "from a point six miles from the west shore of said river to a point opposite the Upper Rapids, and thence due east to the rapids. The "Upper Rapids" were what we now know as the "Upper Dells" at Kilbourn City, as that was the term they were known by in early times. It may seem strange, however, that the boundary line should have been made to run six miles from and parallel with the Wisconsin River. This was a most remarkable boundary line but may be explained perhaps, by the fact that there were a few settlers scattered along the southwesterly bank of the Wisconsin River in the six mile strip whose interests were wholly at the "Winnebago Portage" rather than with Prairie du Chien, in Crawford County, where their affairs would have been transacted if they had not been detached. The lands in the strip not having been surveyed they could not be described in any other manner.

†The reason for excepting these fractional towns probably was owing to the fact that the sections were in a bend of the Fox River and to have made them a part of Portage County would have made it highly inconvenient for the few inhabitants residing in them, so very properly they were left in Marquette County.



Boundaries of Portage County as Established by Act
of Legislature, Feb. 18, 1841

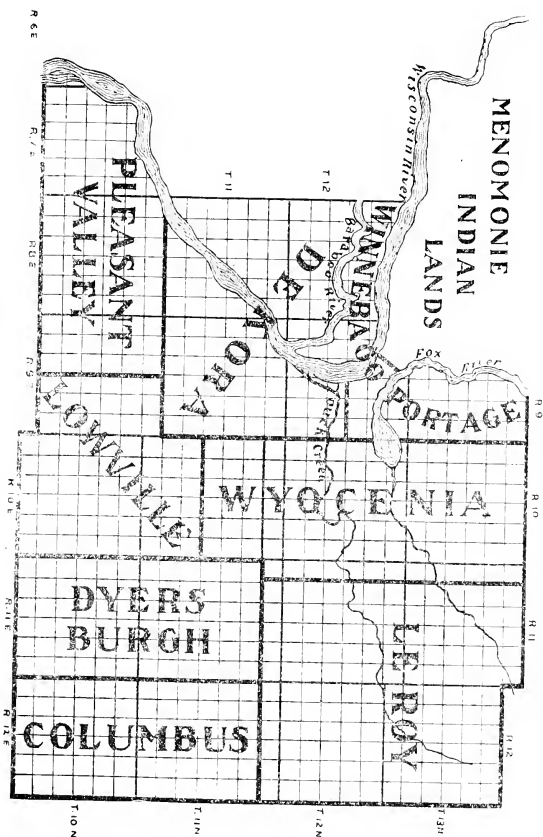
Election precincts for the enlarged county were established at the Franklin House at the Portage; at Stephen's Mills, at the Big Bull Falls, at the house of E. Bloomer; at the Grand Rapids, at the house of Abraham Brawley on Mill Creek, and at Dickinson and Stroud's Mills on the Crawfish (Columbus).

The people having neglected to hold this election, the Legislature passed a special "Relief Act" on the 9th of February, 1842, authorizing the sheriff of Dane County (to which the county had been attached for judicial purposes) to call an election for county officers in Portage County on the fourth Monday in March, 1842. On the 18th of April, 1844, the people voted on the location of the county seat, and Plover was triumphant over Fort Winnebago. At the first meeting of the County Commissioners held at the hotel of Capt. Low (The Franklin House) April 20, 1842, three election precincts were established in the territory comprising Columbia County — Columbus, at Stroud and Dickinson's Mills; Dekorra, at the house of LaFayette Hill, and Winnebago Portage, at the house of Capt. G. Low.

In making election returns to the county seat at Plover, Hon. John Q. Adams has related his experience in the following manner: About fifty votes were polled in this precinct and about one hundred and twenty-five in the county. Mr. Adams started the day after election with the returns. He went as far as Dickason's (Wyocena) with the Major, the latter being on foot, and Mr. Adams mounted on a pony. This was Mr. Adams's first experience in the pioneer mode of traveling — "ride and tie" as it was called. One rode a couple of miles or more, tied his horse to a blazed tree and walked along the trail until he was overtaken and passed, and afterward came up with the horse tied and waiting for him. This was not a sociable way of journeying, and often the party overtaken would trot along beside his mounted friend to get a few minutes' "chat." One day on the trail satisfied Mr. Adams that it was hardly worth while for him to make a trip of 100 miles or more to carry the returns of fifty votes and he handed his papers over to Chas. Temple who was going with the returns of the Winnebago precinct.

This brings us to the organization of Columbia County which was accomplished by act of the Legislature of Wisconsin, approved February 3d, 1846. The county as thus organized is as it now exists except the lands of the Menominee Indians remained within the limits of Portage County.

The evolution of the county shall now be told by the county records.



Names and Boundaries of Precincts of Columbia County as Established by the
Board of County Councilmen, July 16, 1845

CHAPTER IV.

THE FIRST PLATTING OF COLUMBIA COUNTY.

The county of Columbia having been set off from Portage County by act of the Legislature approved Feb. 3, 1846, an election was held April 1st of that year in the several precincts of the county for the election of such officers as the act provided for that the county might be fully organized on the 1st day of May following. At that election Solomon Leach, John Q. Adams and John Langdon were elected County Commissioners. The records of their first meeting are given herewith.

PART I.

At a meeting of the County Commissioners held at the house of Elbert Dickason on the 16th day of July, A. D. 1846, after severally taking the oath required, the board was organized by calling Solomon Leach to the chair. Present: Solomon Leach and John Q. Adams. (Mr. John Langdon who had been elected as a commissioner did not appear.) It was resolved:

1. That that portion of Columbia County commencing at the northeast corner of said county embracing townships twelve and thirteen of range twelve, and all that part of townships twelve and thirteen range eleven, lying east of the section line between five and six, be set off in a precinct to be known by the name of the "LeRoy Precinct" and that Nathan Griffin, James Buoy and Ervin McCall be judges of election in said precinct, said election to be held at the house of Oliver Langdon.

This precinct embraced all of the present towns of Randolph, Courtland, Springvale and Scott except the west tier of sections in Scott and Springvale.

2. That that portion of said county embraced in townships ten and eleven in range twelve to compose a precinct to be known as the "Columbus Precinct," elections to be held at the house of A. P. Birdsey and that Asa Proctor, J. T. Lewis and Jeremiah Drake be judges of said election.

This precinct embraced all of the present towns of Columbus and Fountain Prairie, and the city of Columbus and village of Fall River.

3. That townships ten and eleven of range eleven compose a precinct to be known by the name of "Dyers Burgh Precinct" and that the elections be held at the house of Landy Sowards, and Jonathan E. Haight and Henry Pellet be the judges of election in said precinct.

This precinct embraced the present towns of Otsego and Hampden and the village of Rio except a small portion of the village which was detached from Lowville.

4. That town ten, range ten, south half of town eleven range ten and east half of town ten range nine compose a precinct to be known

by the name of "Lowville Precinct," elections to be held at the house of Jacob Low and Wm. H. Young, Henry Herring and Stephen Brayton be judges of election in said precinct.

This precinct embraced all of the present towns of Leeds, the south half of Lowville, and the east half of Arlington.

5. That west half of town ten range nine, town ten range eight, fractional town ten range seven compose a precinct to be known by the name of "Pleasant Valley Precinct" and Marston Bartholomew, Aaron Chalfant and J. Maynard be judges of said election: elections to be held at the house of Marston Bartholomew.

This precinct embraced the present town and village of Lodi, the west half of Arlington and the town of West Point, but the fractional part of town ten range six was not included.

6. That townships eleven, ranges eight and nine, and the south half of town twelve range nine, and all that part of town twelve range eight lying south of the Baraboo River compose a precinct to be known by the name of the "Dekora Precinct:" elections to be held at the house of LaFayette Hill, and Joshua W. Rhodes, John Springer and Thomas Swearingen be judges of election in said precinct.

This precinct embraced all of the present town of Dekorra, the south half of Pacific and all of Caledonia lying south of the Baraboo River. The name was spelled as it appears on the diagram, "Dekora."

7. That all that part of town twelve north of the Baraboo River, and town thirteen, and fractional town fourteen range eight; town thirteen and north half of twelve range nine, compose a precinct to be known as the "Winnebago Portage Precinct:" elections to be held at the house of Gideon Low, and that Richard F. Veeder, Daniel D. Robertson and Henry Merrell be judges of election in this precinct.

The resolution establishing this precinct appears to have been defective in including *fractional town fourteen* range eight. Town fourteen was not a part of Columbia County: doubtless fractional town thirteen ranges six and seven was meant. The Menominee* Indian lands in town thirteen remained a part of Portage County. It is doubtful if anything more than the Grignon tract, in the city of Portage, and that portion of Fort Winnebago lying east of the Fox River was rightfully included within this precinct.

8. That townships thirteen and twelve and the north half of town eleven range ten and one tier of sections on the west side of towns twelve and thirteen range eleven compose a precinct to be known by the name of the "Wyoc-nia Precinct:" elections to be held at the house of Elbert Dickason, and Charles Spear, Darius Bisbee and Harvey Bush be judges of election in said precinct.

*The name of this tribe of Indians has been spelled in many different ways. In preparing the maps which appear herein, the local method in most common use, "Menomonie," was followed. Since the maps were engraved a bulletin has come to my knowledge showing the manner in which the Bureau of American Ethnology and the Indian Bureau have agreed upon a system for the spelling of Indian names, and that for the tribe mentioned will be followed in these pages, viz: "Menominee."

This precinct embraced the present towns of Marcellon, Wyocena, the north half of Lowville and the west tier of sections of the towns of Scott and Springvale and the village of Pardeeville and appeared on the plat spelled as on the diagram, "Wyocenia."

PART II.

At a meeting of the "Commissioners Court" (as the board, adopting a New England style, deemed it appropriate to designate its meetings) at the house of Gideon Low, at the Winnebago Portage, Feb. 16, 1848, John Q. Adams, Joshua J. Guppy and George M. Bartholomew were present. This entry appears on the Journal:

Name of Dyer's Burgh Precinct [now Otsego and Hampden] changed to Springfield Precinct.

PART III.

REVISION OF APRIL 3, 1848.

Commissioners present: J. Q. Adams, J. J. Guppy and G. M. Bartholomew. There was a revision of election precincts.

Extract from Journal.

1. Town thirteen range twelve and the east half of town thirteen range eleven and the fractional lots south of it to constitute "Portage Prairie Precinct;" elections to be held at Oscar F. Hamilton's; M. W. Patton, John Converse and John P. Hardy appointed judges of election.

This precinct embraced the present towns of Randolph, the east half of Scott and the lots in the present town of Springvale bordering on Scott.

2. Town twelve range twelve, and the east half of town twelve range eleven, except the fractional lots on the north, constitute "Le-Roy Precinct" and elections to be held at Horace Rust's and that Julius Williams, Horace Rust and John Randall be judges of election.

This precinct embraced what is now the town of Courtland and the east half of Springvale except the tier of lots on the north side of Springvale.

3. Towns ten and eleven of range twelve constitute "Columbus Precinct" and that J. J. Guppy, J. C. Carr and Lucius Warner be judges of election in said precinct.

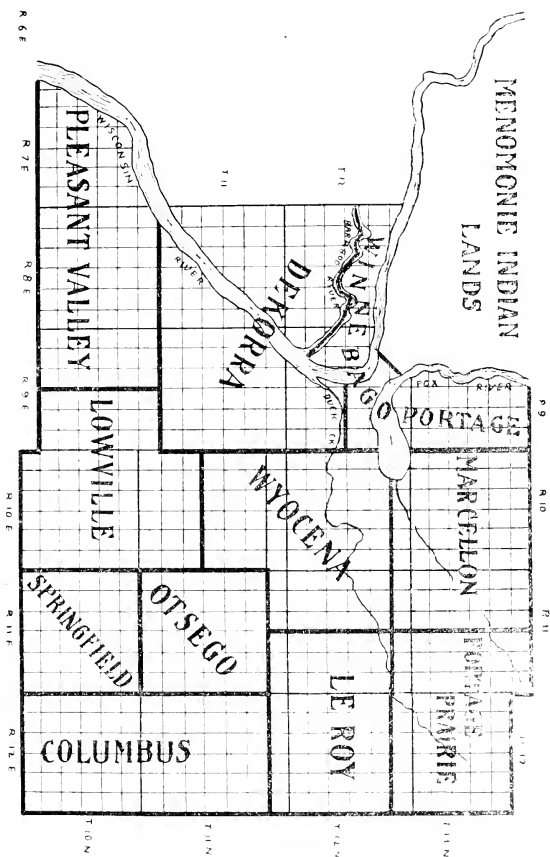
This precinct continued to embrace the towns of Columbus and Fountain Prairie.

4. Town ten range eleven constitute "Springfield Precinct." A. Topliff, A. Pease and Solomon Meade, judges of election.

This precinct constituted the present town of Hampden.

5. Town eleven range eleven constitute "Otsego Precinct" and that Johnson King, Horace Dodge and Israel Sayles be judges of election.

This precinct, first known as a part of Dyer's Burgh, remains to the present time as Otsego.



Names and Boundaries of Precincts of Columbia County as Established by the
Board of County Commissioners, April 3, 1848

6. Town ten range ten and the south half of town eleven range ten and east half of town ten range nine compose "Lowville Precinct" and Wm. T. Bradley, Edward Clark and Benjamin B. Webb be judges of election.

This precinct remained as first constituted.

7. The north half of town eleven range ten, town twelve range ten except the fractional lots on the north side and west half of town twelve range eleven except fractional lots on the north, compose "Wyocena Precinct" and Joseph Farrington, Park Bronson and Chauncey Spear be judges of election.

This precinct embraced the north half of Lowville, the west half of Springvale and all of Wyocena, except the tier of lots on the north side of Wyocena and Springvale.

8. Town thirteen range ten and west half of town thirteen range eleven with fractional lots south of both of them in town twelve ranges ten and eleven, compose "Marcellon Precinct" and that William J. Ensign, Francis Langdon and Almon H. Hoyt be judges of election.

This precinct embraced the present town of Marcellon, the west half of Scott, and the tier of lots on the north side of Wyocena and west half of Springvale.

9. Towns eleven and ranges eight and nine and the south half of town twelve and that portion of town twelve west of the Baraboo River compose "Dekorra Precinct."

This precinct remained as constituted at first.

10. Town twelve range eight, except that part lying southwest of the Baraboo River, the north half of town twelve range nine and the fractional townships north in range eight and nine, compose "Winnebago Portage Precinct."

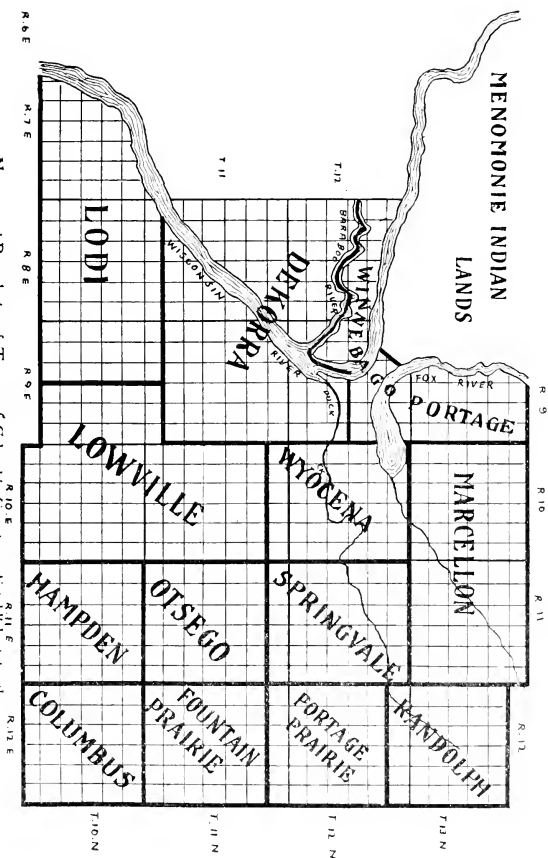
This precinct remained as described at first, but the clerical error in its description was corrected.

11. That the west half of town ten range nine, town ten range eight, and fractional town ten range seven compose "Pleasant Valley Precinct" and William G. Simons, I. H. Palmer and T. S. Wells appointed judges of election in said precinct; elections to be held at the school house in S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, S. 27, T. 10, R. 8.

This precinct remained as first constituted, comprising Lodi, West Point and west half of Arlington.

PART IV.

An adjourned meeting of the "Commissioners' Court" was held January 9, 1849, at Columbus, Lafayette Hill and John O. Jones constituting the "Court." Up to this time the assessment and collection of taxes had been made by county assessors and treasurers and the road and school districts were under the jurisdiction of the "Commissioners Court." The town system of government had been provided for by the constitution of the state and the "Court" at this meeting proceeded to divide the county into towns in the following manner:



Names and Boundaries of Towns of Columbia County as Established by the
Board of Supervisors of Columbia County, January 9, 1849

NOTE.—The Town of Marcellon was divided Nov. 16, 1819, and Town of Scott created out of its west half.

THE FAMILY TREE OF

Extract from Journal, January 9, 1849.

1. Township number ten range twelve was organized into a town and the name of "Columbus" given to said town, and the house of A. P. Birdsey designated as the place of holding the first election.

2. Township number eleven range twelve was organized into a town and the name of "Fountain Prairie" was given to said town and the house of A. A. Brayton designated as the place of holding the first election.

3. Township twelve range twelve was organized into a town and the name of "Portage Prairie" given to said town and the house of Horace Rust designated as the place for holding the first election.

The name of this town was at a later date, Nov. 18, 1852, changed to "Courtland" it having been known prior to this as "LeRoy Precinct."

4. Townshup number thirteen range twelve was organized into a town and the name of "Randolph" given to said town and the house of Oscar T. Hamilton designated as the place for holding the first election.

This town with the east half of town thirteen range eleven (Scott) had previously constituted the precinct of "Portage Prairie."

5. Township thirteen ranges ten and eleven was organized into a town and the name of "Marrsellon" given to said town and McDonald Hotel designated as the place for holding the first election.

This town with the west half of town thirteen range eleven (Scott) had constituted the precinct of "Marrsellon." (So spelled on the plat.)

6. Township number twelve range eleven, was organized into a town and the name of "Springvale" given to said town and the house of Edward Williams designated as the place for holding the first election.

The east half of town twelve range eleven had constituted a part of LeRoy Precinct, and the west half of it had formed a part of "Wyocenia" Precinct.

7. Township number eleven range eleven was organized into a town and the name of "Otsego" given to said town and the house of Wayne B. Dyer designated as the place of holding the first election.

This town had been known as the precinct of Otsego.

8. Township number ten range eleven was organized into a town and the name "Hampden" given to said town and the house belonging to Cornwall Esmond, situated on the northwest corner of section number fifteen designated as the place of holding the first election.

This town was previously known as "Springfield Precinct."

9. Townships ten and eleven range ten and the east half of township number ten range nine was organized into a town and the name "Lowville" given to said town and the house of Jacob Low designated as the place of holding the first election.

This town had previously been known as "Lowville Precinct." At a subsequent meeting of the Board, Nov. 19, 1849, the north half of town eleven range ten was once more made a part of Wyocena.

10. Townships number twelve, range number ten, was organized into a town and the name "Wyocena" [changing the previous spelling, 'Wyocenia'] given to said town and Richard C. Rockwood's designated as the place of holding the first election.

At a subsequent meeting of the board the following November, the north half of town eleven range ten was reannexed to Wyocena.

11. The fractional part of townships lying north of the Baraboo River and west of the Wisconsin River; also the north half of townships number twelve and the fractional part of township number thirteen range nine in Columbia County was organized into a town and the name of "Winnebago Portage" given to said town and the Franklin House designated as the place for holding the election.

12. All that portion of Columbia County lying west of the Wisconsin River and south of the Baraboo River and the fractional parts of townships eleven range nine and the fractional part of township eleven range eight and that part of the south half of town twelve range nine lying east of the Wisconsin River was organized into a town and the name Dekorra given to said town and the house of Bishop Johnson designated as the place for holding the election.

This left the town of Dekorra with the same boundaries that the precinct of the same name previously had.

13. The west half of township number ten range nine and townships number ten range eight and the fractional part of township number ten range number seven was organized into a town and the name of "Lodi" given to said town and the schoolhouse situated on the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section number twenty-seven township number ten range eight, designated as the place for holding the first election.

This town had previously been known as the precinct of "Pleasant Valley."

PART V.

Extract from Journal, Nov. 16, 1849.

At a meeting of the Board held this day, Nov. 16, 1849, it was

Resolved, That town thirteen range eleven in Columbia County be set off from Marcellon and the town be called "Scott," and that the first town meeting be held at the house of William Lang. (In 1850 an effort was made to divide Scott and annex the east half of it to Randolph and the west half to Marcellon, but it was unsuccessful.)

Resolved, That the north half of town eleven range ten be set off from Lowville and attached to the town of Wyocena.

Other proceedings relating to the town of Lowville were had; when it was voted—

That the north half of town eleven range ten be reannexed to Lowville.

On motion it was also

Resolved, That town ten range ten and the east half of town ten range nine be organized into a town and the name of "Kossuth" be given to said town and the house of C. B. Thompson be designated as the place for holding the first town meeting.

In 1852 the name of this town was changed by act of the Legislature, chapter 247, to "Leeds."

The "Commissioners Court" had now been relegated to the rear, and a County Board of Supervisors had been installed in its place, composed of the chairman of each town, on the present general plan.

The Indian title having been extinguished, an act of the Legislature was passed in 1849, which provided, "That all that portion of the county contained in townships numbered twelve (12) and thirteen (13) north in ranges number six (6), seven (7), eight (8), and nine (9), lying and being north and east of the Wisconsin River is hereby annexed to and made a part of the county of Columbia.

PART VI.

Condensed Minutes from the Journal of Jan. 8, 1850.

At a meeting of the Board Jan. 8, 1850, petitions were presented asking that town eleven, range ten, be set off into a separate town to be called Dover.

Also, a petition was presented, praying that a part of town ten, range seven, and a piece off the west side of town ten, range eight, one and one-half miles wide, be organized into a town to be called Portland.

The committee on the latter petition reported in favor of setting off the town as requested but that it be given the name of Bloomfield, whereupon the following resolution was adopted:

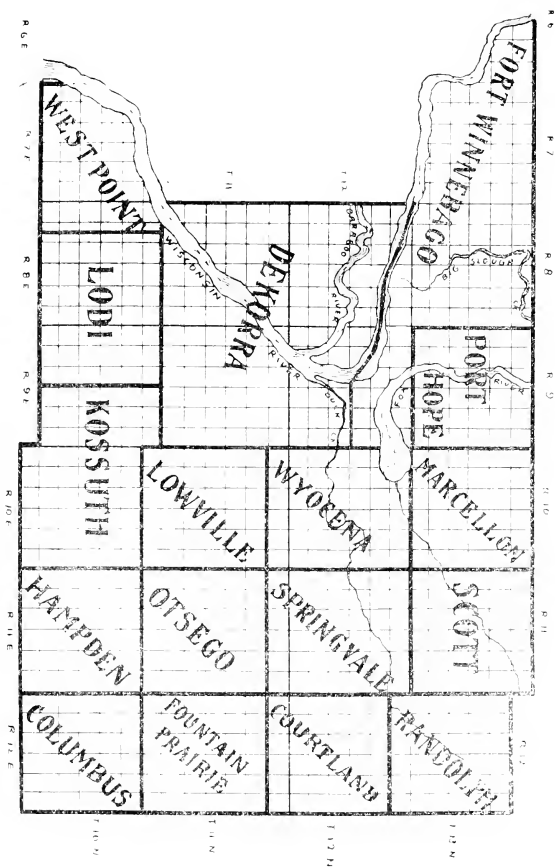
"Resolved, by the Board, That the petition * * * for a division and organization of a new town out of the said town of Lodi be granted."

Whereupon the boundaries of said town were fixed as follows: viz, Commencing at the northeast corner of a quarter line and running through the center of sections 5, 8, 17, 20, 29, and 32 in town ten, range eight, and the name "West Point" was given to said town and the house of J. D. Shumway designated as the place for holding the first town meeting.

It was also

Resolved, by the Board, That the name of the town of Winnebago Portage be changed to Fort Winnebago.

Township number thirteen, range nine, of the surveyed portion of Columbia County, and also a sufficient (portion) of the unsurveyed lands lying on the west side of the Fox River to constitute it a town six miles square was organized into a town and the name of "Port



Names and Boundaries of Towns of Columbia County as Established by the
Board of Supervisors, January 8, 1820

Hope" was given to said town and the house of A. T. Spicer designated as the place for holding the first town meeting.

The unsurveyed land lying in town thirteen, range eight, and the northeast fractional part of town ten, range eight, and the northwest fractional part of town twelve, range nine, in Columbia county was attached to the town of "Fort Winnebago" for town purposes. This was a most indefinite description, but the plat made clear what was intended, which was to place the Menominee Indian lands within the jurisdiction of Fort Winnebago, (afterwards Portage City.)

At a meeting of the Board July 19th, 1850, it was

Resolved, That section thirty-three in the town of Port Hope be set off from said town and attached to the town of Fort Winnebago [Portage].

The section was restored to Port Hope Dec. 15th, 1852, and Nov. 18, 1853, the name of the town was changed to "Fort Winnebago."

At a meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Nov. 11, 1851, a petition was presented asking that a portion of the towns of Dekorra and Fort Winnebago lying west of the Wisconsin River be constituted a new town by the name of "Caledonia." The petition was granted, and the first town meeting was directed to be held at the house of Alex. McDonald on the first Monday of December following.

It was also voted that certain fractions in town ten, range six, on the east side of the Wisconsin River be annexed to town ten, range seven, (West Point). This placed the fraction specified in the town of West Point, it having been omitted from any town or precinct up to this time.

PART VII.

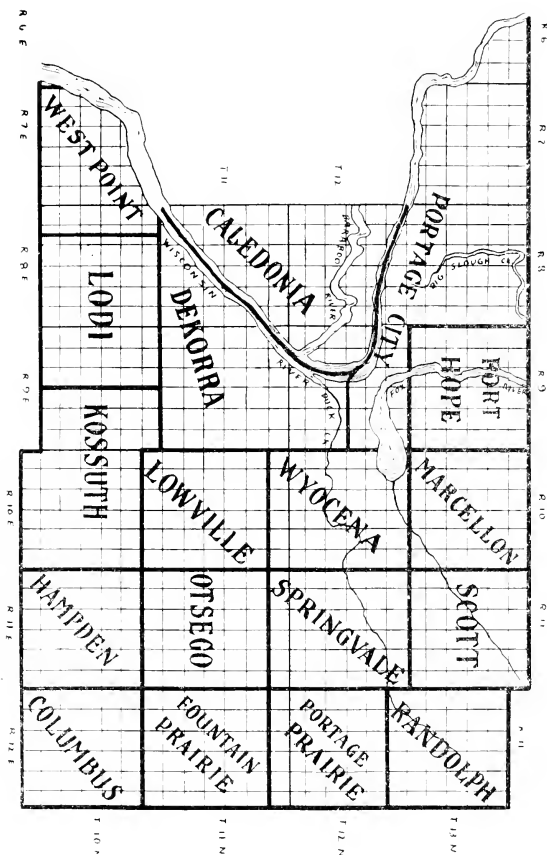
Condensed Minutes from the Journal.

Nov. 15, 1852, the town of Newport was established with its present boundaries.

Nov. 18, 1853, the name of the town of Port Hope was changed to "Fort Winnebago."

Nov. 18, 1852, the name of the town of Portage Prairie was changed to "Courtland."

Nov. 18, 1852, the town of Lewiston was established with its present boundaries, except that portion of town twelve, range eight, lying north



Names and Boundaries of Towns of Columbia County as Established in 1971

of the Wisconsin River, which had been made a part of the town of Portage City. Later in the session an ordinance was passed detaching the excepted portion from the town of Portage City and annexing it to Lewiston, subject however, to a vote of the people, which was carried at the election.

Nov. 19, 1852, the whole of the present town of Pacific was attached to the town of Fort Winnebago. [Portage City].

Dec. 15, 1852, section thirty-three in town thirteen, range nine, was detached from the town of Fort Winnebago [later Portage City] and reannexed to Port Hope [later Fort Winnebago].

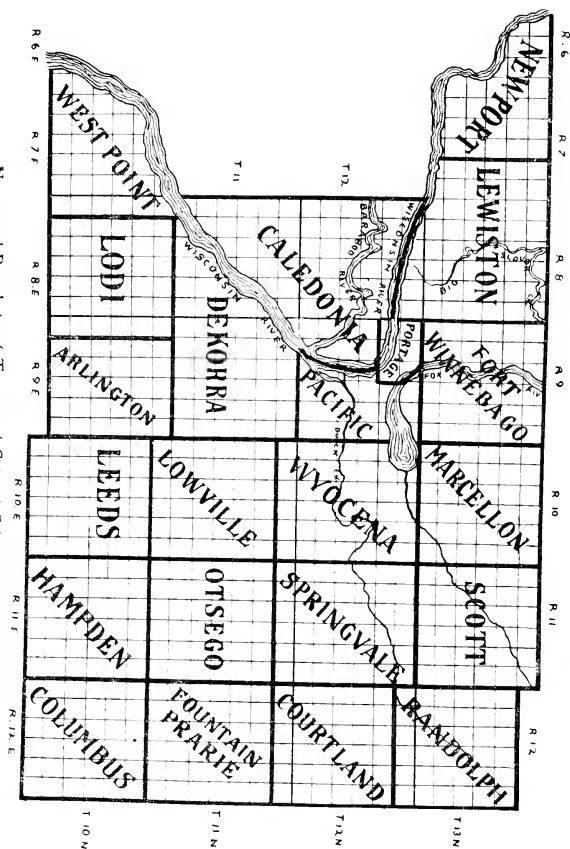
Dec. 17, 1852, the name of the town of Fort Winnebago was changed to "Portage City."

1854. The town of Pacific was organized with its present boundaries.

1855. At a session of the County Board of Supervisors, a petition was presented asking for the organization of the town of Arlington, but it did not receive favorable consideration. At the next session of the Legislature, 1855, an act was passed organizing the town of Arlington comprising all of town ten, range nine, except sections six, seven, eighteen, nineteen, thirty and thirty-one, the excepted sections having been attached to Lodi; and the west half of sections five, eight, seventeen, twenty, twenty-one, twenty-nine and thirty-two of town ten, range eight, were detached from West Point and given to Lodi.—Chapter 244 P. & L. Laws of 1855.

December 10, 1871, the County Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance attaching the six sections on the west side of town ten, range nine, to Arlington, thus making the town consist of a full government township.

Cities and villages were incorporated as follows: Portage, as a city, in 1854; Columbus, first as a village in 1864; and as a city in 1874; Kilbourn City, as a village (from the town of Newport) in 1868; of Randolph, as a village (the east ward from Westford, Dodge County, and the west ward from Courtland, Columbia County) in 1870; of Cambria, as a village (from the towns of Courtland and Randolph) in 1879; of Lodi, as a village, in 1872; of Rio, as a village (taken principally from Otsego but embracing a small fraction of Lowville) in 1888; of Poynette, as a village, (from the town of Dekorra) in 1895; of Pardee-



Names and Boundaries of Towns and Cities of Columbia County as they appeared January 1, 1855

ville, as a village (taken from Wyocena) in 1895; and of Fall River, as a village (from the town of Fountain Prairie in 1903.

With the closing of this chapter the story of the mapping of Columbia County may be said to have been completed. No other cities or villages or the erection of other towns, in the near future, if ever, is probable. Some slight alteration in the boundaries of one or two towns has been agitated, but not with much earnestness.*

CHAPTER V.

THE EVOLUTION OF COLUMBIA COUNTY.

Having now constructed the Family Tree of Columbia County, let us review its evolution and see in what territories, states, counties, towns and precincts an "old settler" of the county would have lived if he had been here at the time "The Territory Northwest of the Ohio River" was organized in 1787 and had remained in the county until the present time. It must be remembered, however, that there was no "old settler" within the present limits of Columbia County as early as 1787, and its soil had but rarely been pressed by the foot of a white man as early as that time. The barks of Raddison, Grosielliers, Marquette, Joliet, Hennepin, LeSueur, DuLuth, Carver and probably of Nicolet and other adventurous spirits, had floated on the Fox in Columbia County, but their missions were for adventure, discovery and fur trading rather than for occupancy, and it was not until 1792 that any white person became an "inhabitant" of Columbia County. In that year Laurent Barth, a French Canadian, established himself here, to transport goods across the portage between the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers, having obtained a permit from the Winnebago Indians to engage in that occupation. The next white resident at the portage was Jean Baptiste Lecuyer, a brother in law of DeKaury, who had also obtained permission to transport goods. Our old friend Augustin Grignon came in 1801, although he had previously been at the portage, and spent a couple of winters here, but did not become a permanent resi-

*At an election in November 1848, the people of the county in pursuance of an act of the Legislature, voted upon the question of detaching the territory west of the Wisconsin River from Columbia County and attaching it to Sauk. The vote stood "For division, 103; against division, 246."

dent of Columbia County, but returned to the Lower Fox and spent his last days at Butte-des-Morts in 1860. Probably the honor of having been the first permanent settler at the Winnebago Portage, belongs to Jean Baptiste Lecuyer,* as he remained here until his death in 1810, and his bones repose in Portage soil, near the junction of Conant and Adams street, they having been exposed to view in 1900 by some government surveyors who were establishing the boundaries of the "Grignon Claim," Lecuyer's grave having been mentioned in the patent as one of the monuments. And so Lecuyer may be fairly regarded as the first person, aside from the aborigines, to become permanently located at the Winnebago Portage. And so we will regard him, for our present purpose as our "old settler" who has remained here for more than a century.

Our "old settler's" official business, then, would have been transacted first at Marietta, Washington County, Northwest Territory; a little later it would have been at Detroit, Wayne County, Northwest Territory, if he resided anywhere in territory the waters of which flowed to Lake Michigan; if he did not reside in such territory he was in no organized county, and we will not undertake to determine where he would have gone to record his deeds, inasmuch as he didn't have any to record. Congress next transferred his allegiance to Indiana, 1800, with "Sainte Vincennes on the Wabash" as his Capital, but in 1809 he found himself in the Territory of Illinois, but he was in no organized county or town until 1809, when he was, by proclamation, made a resident of St. Clair County, with his county seat at Kaskaskia, which was also the Capital of the Territory. In 1812, however, he was transferred to Madison County and his county seat was "at the house of Thomas Kirkpatrick" (later, Edwardsville.) There he remained until 1817, when the town of Silver Creek (now Olive) in Madison County was organized, by the Court of Common Pleas of the county, which embraced three-fourths of Illinois and all of Wisconsin, the center of political activity being at a small settlement of that name in the southwest part of the county, which is now called "Olive," the town having a popula-

*This name appears in various forms in documents and historical papers, as "Lecuyer," "L'Ecuyer," "Ecuyer" and "Ecair;" the last method, while quite erroneous, probably gives the best understanding of how it was usually pronounced.

tion according to the last census of 773. The next year, 1818, the Territory of Michigan was organized and the whole of the present Territory of Wisconsin was attached to it, and Gov. Cass issued his proclamation establishing the counties of Brown and Crawford. The dividing line between these counties ran directly north from Illinois through the center of "portage" leaving our "old settler" who was transporting his goods across it, one moment in Brown County, with his county seat at Green Bay, and the next moment in Crawford County with his county seat at Prairie du Chien. His residence was placed on wheels still further by the erection of the county of Iowa, in 1819 when, instead of discharging his supplies at the Wisconsin River in Crawford County he would unload them in the town of "Ouisconsin," Iowa County, which had been established by an act of the Michigan Legislature, passed July 27, 1830. In 1834 the territorial council of Michigan established the county of Milwaukee, which was made to embrace the six southeastern towns of Columbia County and an "old settler" living in either of these towns would have been required to go to the town and county of Milwaukee to attend to his public affairs.

By an act of the territorial legislature of Wisconsin, approved Dec. 7, 1836, Columbia County, (first called "Portage") was placed on the map. The county was very nearly identical with the present county of Columbia but it embraced the four western towns of Dodge and a small fraction of Sauk, and left a portion of Caledonia attached to Crawford. The legislation concerning the territory referred to is fully narrated elsewhere.

Having what has been detailed in the foregoing clearly before him, the reader may, with the aid of the accompanying maps, determine where our "old settler" had lived from time to time prior to 1846, and where he was to exercise his rights of citizenship after the organization of Columbia County.

For the purpose of a *resume* let it be considered that our "old settler" had established himself at some particular point in the county and continued to reside there until this, the semi-centennial year of the existence of Portage as a city, it having been incorporated as such in 1854.

If he had established himself in what now constitutes the City of Port-

age he would, at different times, have been a resident of "Winnebago Portage Precinct;"* town of Fort Winnebago, Portage City, or of one of the towns of Caledonia, Port Hope, Lewiston, or Fort Winnebago, according to his location in the city, or he may, perchance, have been occupying lands belonging to the Menominee Indians, as many settlers were.

If he had located in Columbus he would have had a continuous residence in that town or city, first established as a "Precinct."

If he had "taken up land" in Randolph in 1846 he would at first have been an inhabitant of "LeRoy Precinct;" in 1848 he would have been in "Portage Prairie Precinct" and a year later he would have been, as now, firmly established in the town of "Randolph."

If at first his habitation had been in the east half of Arlington he would have been in "Lowville Precinct," and if in the west half of it he would have been in "Pleasant Valley Precinct;" but in 1850 he would have been in the town of "Kossuth," if in the east half of it, and in Lodi if in the west half. In 1854 the town was organized under the present name, Arlington, but the west tier of sections were attached to Lodi, but were restored to it in 1872.

If his cabin had been located in Hampden he would have written "Dyer's Burgh" as his residence, which was changed a year later to "Springfield" which remained as the name of his precinct until a year later when he became permanently located in "Hampden."

If he had set his stakes in Fort Winnebago he would have been included in the "Winnebago Portage Precinct" at first, if east of the Fox River, and on the lands of the Menominee Indians, if west of it. In 1850 he would have been in the town of "Port Hope," which became the town of Fort Winnebago in 1853.

If he had made the present town of Lewiston his abiding place he would have been on the "Indian lands" prior to the extinguishment of the Indian title, the treaty of cession having been signed at Lake Poygan Oct. 18, 1848, and having been confirmed Jan. 23, 1849, but for a time

*Prior to the adoption of the State Constitution in 1848, the most of the business now transacted by towns devolved upon a "Board of County Commissioners," the Precincts which were established at first being for convenience in voting for Commissioner, so it will be understood that the divisions of the County, recited in the following were precincts up to 1848, but became "towns" after the constitution was adopted.

after the organization of the town in 1852, he would have been a resident of the town of Portage City, if he lived in fractional town ten, ranges six and seven, which territory, however, became a part of Lewiston in 1854, by vote of the people.

It is not deemed important to note the transition of our "old settler" from one precinct or town to another at greater length. A glance at the accompanying maps will enable the student to easily ascertain what changes in local government he may have experienced while a resident of Columbia County, as a preceding chapter has recited the jurisdictions he was subject to at an earlier date.

So, wishing him unmeasured happiness for another century, whether domiciled in a "wike-up" on earth or in "mansions in the skies," we will leave him to ponder and marvel over "what wonders have been wrought" since he first looked upon the waters of "Ouisconsin," toted his birch over the "Wauona," stalked for the antlered buck in the glades and over the prairies, and put out his line of traps for the furs of the rat and the beaver over on the Neenah in "The Early Day" of delightful memory, when they rise up and pass in review before him.

CHAPTER VI.

THE FIRST SETTLERS OF COLUMBIA COUNTY.

Who was the first white man to visit Columbia County? This question may never be definitely determined, but all historians are agreed that Jean Nicolet was the first white man to visit Wisconsin. Nicolet was a French explorer sent out upon a western expedition by Samuel de Champlain, Governor of New France, to learn what he might about the tales he was hearing of great rivers and bodies of waters to the westward, for it must be remembered that everything west of the great lakes at that time was an absolutely unknown region to white people. Nicolet reached the territory we now call Wisconsin about 1634. He ascended the Fox River as far as the village of the Mascoutens, at least, but wrote about his whereabouts so indefinitely that it can only be guessed how far he ascended the Fox; but Butterfield, who probably gave the subject more attention than any other historian, concludes that he did not ascend the Fox any farther than to the village of the Mas-

coutens, which he locates, to his own satisfaction, as being in Green Lake County, and then declares that "Nicolet never ascended the Fox as far as Columbia County." Perhaps he did not, but it seems incredible that Nicolet, when at the very threshold of the point where he could learn the most about the object of the mission upon which he had been sent, should turn back with having acquired but very little information of value to Champlain. Mr. Butterfield's views cannot be accepted as conclusive upon the slimy evidence he presents to sustain them, which is far from satisfactory.

Mr. Butterfield located the Mascoutens in Green Lake County by ignoring Marquette's journal, in which he, Marquette, stated that he reached the Mascouten village "three leagues from the portage" and concluding that he must have meant "thirty leagues from the portage." This view has also been adopted by others who have written upon the subject. Without accepting this view as being correct, (the writer believing it to be absolutely incorrect,) the disputed question may be dismissed, while all agree that Nicolet was the first white man to ascend the Fox, exactly how far up he came being of lesser importance. So we leave all question about who was the first white man to visit the "portage," Nicolet or Groseilliers [pronounced Gro-zay-yay] and Radisson, or Marquette and Joliet, for others to guess about, for no one can do more, and proceed to determine, as well as we may, who was the first white man to settle in Columbia County.

Those who came here first, aside from the Indians, were French Canadians of mixed blood. Moreover they were traders, or adventurers, who came here with no purpose of becoming settlers, in the common acceptance of the term, and tarried but a short time and sought new fields for trade and adventure; of this class were Laurent Barth and family, James Porlier and Charles Reaume who came in 1793, and traded for a short time with the Indians and transported goods over the "portage;" soon after came the famous old Indian chieftain, DeKaury (Scha-chip-ka-ka), who founded a village about three miles above the "portage" (Sec. 10) on what afterwards became known, locally, as "Waggoner's Bluff." Then came, in 1798, Jean B. Lecuyer, a brother-in-law of DeKaury and, in 1801, Capt. Augustin Grignon, appeared on the scene and also engaged in transportation and

other business incident thereto, but none of them could be regarded as "settlers" in the proper sense of the term, unless we except Lecuyer who did obtain certain landed property rights, which, with those of Grignon, were subsequently recognized by the Government and so, in the case of Lecuyer, at least, he settled, or at least became permanently located here, for he lived the balance of his life and was buried here in 1810, and his grave is one of the landmarks mentioned in the deed patented to Grignon conveying the lands of "Webb & Bronson's plat of the town of Fort Winnebago" to him. [Near corner of Conant and Adams streets.]

So we eliminate all of the men named as being neither settlers nor white men in the fullest sense of the term, for their blood was modified, in some degree at least, by that of their brethren of the blankets, as it was of all others, of whom we have any knowledge, who came here prior to the advent of the troops at the portage, in 1828, to establish Fort Winnebago. In 1831 Capt. Gideon Low reported at the Fort for army duty, and in 1834 Hon. Henry Merrell came, both of whom remained the balance of their lives, and so might, very properly be called the "first settlers," but they did not purchase land at once—and right to the term of "first settler" has been confined to the man who first "took up land" and entered upon its cultivation in the county. And so, accepting this view as "history," the honor of "first settler" belongs to Wallis Rowan who settled in Poynette, and acquired in due form the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section thirty-four, township eleven, north of range nine, east, the patent issuing June 6, 1836.

The "Grignon Tract," or "French claim No. 21" before alluded to, which was the beginning of Portage, was patented to him by President Andrew Jackson, April 26, 1832, and this tract, in fact, was the first one conveyed to an individual in Columbia County by the government, Rowan's being the next one.

CHAPTER VII.

INDIAN OCCUPANCY.

In considering the early occupancy of Columbia County the existence of the aborigines must not be altogether ignored. Samuel de

Champlain, as early as 1615, heard of a tribe of Indians living upon the Fox River, called Mashkoutenec, or the Fire Nation,* but which became better known in after years as the Mascoutens. Their villages were scattered at various points along the Fox River and they claimed as part of their hunting grounds the territory now included in Columbia County. In their neighborhood were their kindred, the Kickapoos, Miamis and the Weas, and portions of these tribes, at least, were at times occupying the villages of the Mascoutens. They gradually migrated southward and eventually disappeared altogether as a separate tribe and their grounds were occupied by the Foxes or Outagamis and their relatives the Sacs, who in turn eventually migrated to the west and southwest. Upon their disappearance the Winnebagoes, "Men of the Sea," came up from the region about Green Bay and occupied the territory, but they made no claim to the territory west of the Fox River and north of the Wisconsin, which embraces the towns of Newport, Lewiston, that portion of Fort Winnebago west of the Fox, the village of Kilbourn City and a portion of the city of Portage, which was claimed by the Menominees, although this tribe never actually occupied any portion of Columbia County. By treaties with the Winnebagoes, first at Prairie du Chien, August 1, 1829, and three years later at Fort Armstrong, Rock Island, all of the lands of the Winnebagoes in Columbia County were relinquished except that portion which was west of the Wisconsin River (Caledonia), but in November of 1837, they ceded to the general government all of their lands east of the Mississippi River.

The claim of the Menominees to the lands already referred to had been recognized by the general government, but by treaty with them, confirmed Jan. 23, 1849, they sold their lands and all of the lands which had been claimed by Indians had been relinquished to the general government, but the Menominees remained in possession of their land until 1851, when it was delivered to the general government.

Never at any time had the Menominees occupied with their villages

*The etymology of Mashkoutenec is disputed. Allouez and Marquette translate it as the Hurons did "Fire Nation," but Dablon, Charlevoix and Schoolcraft and others, including Secretary Thwaites of the Wisconsin State Historical Society treat it as a mistake and say it is derived from Muskontenec, a prairie. Accepting this as correct, the Mascoutens should be known as "Men of the Prairie" or "Prairie People" instead of the "Nation de Feu," or "Fire Nation."

any point in Columbia County, but it was different with the Winnebagoes. The larger portion of the tribe is on the government reservation established for them in Nebraska, but Columbia County continues to be the abode of straggling bands of them from whose camps the descendants of DeKaury, Yellow Thunder and Mi-ja-jin-a-ka (Dixon) annually depart for the blueberry plains and cranberry marshes to replenish their finances, and to trap rats on the Neenah in season, and indulge in fire water out of season, but give no evidence of "passing away." Lo is with us to stay.

CHAPTER VIII.

PAPER CITIES IN COLUMBIA COUNTY.

Columbia County in its early history had the usual experiences of newly organized counties, the platting of "paper cities;" that is, the laying out of towns which were believed would become important in time, in some cases, while in others they were platted for purely speculative purposes. The plats would be nicely engraved and sent abroad and lots were sold in some of them in considerable numbers, but in a few instances only were there any special benefits resulting to the speculators. It is but just to state, however, that in nearly every case there were substantial reasons for thinking that the expected city would materialize. But there had to be more substantial reasons for the building of a city than a "good location," for natural causes would determine their destiny in the end.

The paper cities of Columbia County are here briefly referred to.

SWAN LAKE TOWN SITES.

The recent platting of "Oakwood Park" on the northerly side of Swan Lake, near its easterly end, by H. E. Purdy, recalls the fact that nearly seventy years ago there were some people who saw the little lake and, appreciating its beauties and advantageous location, proceeded to take time by the forelock and laid out several town sites of magnificent proportions and much pretentions on its shores, so much so that a suspicion forces itself that the proprietors were banking upon the gullibility of eastern capitalists more than they were upon the immedi-

ate prospects of a thriving population for their embryo cities. Be that as it may, their town sites were well located and had much to commend them, only they were rather ahead of the times. It is not probable that any very important villages, or cities, will soon be found on the banks of Swan Lake, but with the constantly increasing demand for summer homes for the families of people in the large cities, Swan Lake is sure to come, at no distant day, into prominence for its beauty and accessibility are sure to commend it to the public.

WINNEBAGO CITY.

This plat was executed by Larned B. Harkness, (attorney in fact for Everson P. Maynard), and was recorded in Brown County, Oct. 24, 1836. The plat appears to be on lots 7, 8 and 9 of section 6, and 12 of section 5, town 12, range 10, on the south side of Swan Lake at its easterly end, on Meyer's land. The volume of deeds, which was copied from the records of Brown County, shows a large number of conveyances of town lots in this plat, the late Simeon Mills, of Madison, being the purchaser of a considerable number. Some of the conveyances give lots in "addition to Winnebago City" which shows that the plat was enlarged by an addition on the west covering probably, what is known as the "Wardle farm" but there is no plat of the addition on file showing where it was situated. There are public squares shown on the plat, and all that was needed for a city was some inhabitants, but if the city was ever occupied by anybody, I never heard of it. The streets running north and south complimented the noted men of the nation and were named respectively: Clay, Johnson, Van Buren, Jackson, Adams, Madison, Monroe, Jefferson, Washington, Mineral, Wisconsin, Broadway, Cat Fish, Rock River, Market, North and New York, while those running east and west were Maine, Milwaukee, Chicago, Winnebago, Henry, Warren, Green and High and the name of one is illegible. I find no record of the vacation of this plat.

WISCONSINAPOLIS.

This was the somewhat pretentious name given to a village plat on the north side of Swan Lake which was executed by Dr. Lyman Foot, an army surgeon, and C. McDougall, and was filed Jan. 3, 1837. The plat covered all of section 1, town 12, range 9, north of Swan Lake in Pacific and extended north to Stone Quarry Hill in section 36, town

13, range 9, in the town of Fort Winnebago, joining the "Military Reservation" on the west. A "Public Square" was laid out in about the middle of the plat 824 by 912 feet and another a little to the east of the small ponds close by the stone quarry which was 616 by 368 feet. The little lakes were designated "good water." The streets running east and west were numbered First, Second, etc., up to Twenty-first street, First street fronting on Fox River. The streets running north and south were named respectively: Portage, Catlin, Spring, Zard, Dodge, State, Patterson, Cutler, Frazer, Dade and Canal. Why this plat was suffered to lapse into obscurity without any attempt to "boom it," I don't know, for really the scheme was by no means a chimerical one and had many elements to commend it. I do not find that there were ever any conveyances of lots in this town plat or that it was ever formally vacated. The journals of the territorial legislature do show, however, that when the location of the territorial capital was under consideration in 1836, in the legislative council, "Wisconsinapolis" received on one ballot 6 of the 13 votes. This was probably more complimentary than in earnest, for "Wisconsin City" in the town of West Point, received a like vote as did Portage, and a dozen other points were complimented in a like manner on subsequent ballots, Madison being finally selected.

IDA.

No plat of this town site appears on the county records and none is to be found in the archives of the State Historical Society, but it is known that the plat was situated on the north side of Swan Lake, section 6, town 12, range 9, to the east of "Wisconsinapolis," on the identical spot where "Oakwood Park" is located, the land having been entered by L. B. Harkness and presumably was platted by him.

KENTUCKY CITY.

This was the name of a town site platted in 1837, which was superseded ten years later by the plat of the village of Dekorra. There was a tradition for many years, which is still entertained by many, that Dekorra was one of the places complimented by the legislative council with 6 of the 13 votes of the territorial council when the legislature had the location of the capital of Wisconsin under consideration in 1836, and so the remark is often made that "Dekorra lacked but one

vote of being made the capital of the state." I dislike to destroy this pleasant delusion, but history is history. Dekorra did not exist at all, not even as a paper city in 1836, when the capital was located. Dekorra Precinct, however, for some time prior to the organization of Columbia County, and while a part of the county of Iowa, embraced all of the southwestern part of the county, which included what subsequently became the town of West Point and "Wisconsin City," in that town, was the place that received six votes, so the people of Dekorra must dismiss the pleasant delusion they have hugged for lo! these many years, that their village once upon a time came near being selected as the capital of the state.

They may find some consolation, however, for having their fallacy so ruthlessly brushed away, in the knowledge that when Portage County was organized in December, 1836, the county seat was established at "Winnebago City" but on the 12th of January, 1838, it was removed to "Kentucky City" (Dekorra) where it remained until 1844, when it was removed to Plover, over the other contestant, Fort Winnebago. As Portage County, up to this time, remained attached to Dane County for judicial purposes, Kentucky City never actually became a county seat.

BALTIMORE CITY.

This was the name of a town site located in the town of Pacific, on lots 3, 4 and 5, section 33 where the Portage and Mazomanie road leading south crosses the Duck Creek near the Wisconsin River.

Mr. Larned B. Harkness was the owner of the land on which the town site was situated and presumably, was its progenitor as he was engaged in the town site business, as many an eastern "get rich quick" investor could testify, for he had platted Winnebago City on the south bank of Swan Lake and Ida on the north bank and has planned, on paper, a canal to connect these cities.

The city never became densely occupied, McEwen's little tavern, erected principally for the entertainment of the rivermen who tied up their rafts occasionally at the mouth of Duck Creek, having been the only building, I think, in the city, and that disappeared long ago. But the "lone grave" that the wayfarer saw for many years, on the south side of the creek, near the roadway, to the east, surrounded by a palisade, still remains (although I think the pickets have disappeared) and John

Hamilton is the sole tenant of Baltimore City. Hamilton was a Scotchman who entertained himself with his bag-pipe and gave eternal rest to the neighbors and found his own, away from home and kindred, under the little mound on the banks of Duck Creek. At the time of his death he had a small brickyard in the village of Kentucky City (De-korra) which was not far away.

PAUQUETTE.

The territory now embraced within the village of Poynette was originally platted as "Pauquette." The plat was executed March 18, 1837, and filed April 7, by Lt. A. S. Hooe and Wallis Rowan as proprietors. Ex-Gov. Doty filed at the same time an acknowledgment that he was proprietor of so much of the town as was situated on the west half of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 34, town 11, range 9. $\frac{2}{3}$ The plat covered one square mile and was divided by a north and south line between sections 34 and 35.

The makers of the plat seemed to have been impressed with the belief that the name of their village should be supplemented with street nomenclature to correspond and, doubtless so inspired by Gov. Doty, who had a fondness for the aborigines, the following names were given to the streets.

Running East and West—Seminole, Mohican, Chickasaw, Seneca, Saginaw, North Water, South Water, Kansas, Creek, Pottowattamie, Delaware, ⁸Beaver, ⁶Fox.

Running North and South—Iowa, Pawnee, Kickapoo, Ottoe, Winnebago, Ottawa, Osage, Shawnee, Cherokee, Chippewa, Menominee, Main, Oneida, Stockbridge, Mohawk.

It does not appear that any lots ever were sold in this plat, which seems to have fallen stillborn, although we cannot but regret that the name of the village and its streets, was not retained for the village of "Poynette" which was platted later.

WISCONSIN CITY.

As stated in a previous paragraph "Wisconsin City" which was platted in 1836, stands on a beautiful plateau on lot 5 of section 8, and lot 4 of section 9, extending perhaps to lot 1 of section 17, town 10, range 7, on the farms now occupied by George Cook and John Costigan, and was one of the places complimented with six votes for to seven against

as the capital of the state by the territorial council in 1836. This paper city is referred to in the Wisconsin Historical Collections as being "situated in the bend of the river," on a beautiful eminence, commanding a splendid view of the stream with two long public landings fronting the river; a public square for territorial use of two blocks; Franklin, LaFayette and Washington squares, each four blocks—each block 260 feet square; three market places, three blocks in length, and 200 feet wide. Hon. Isaac H. Palmer of Lodi, confirmed this description, adding that he visited the place in 1837, with a view of purchasing the city—"It was then" he says "in its glory, with the stakes all standing, or enough to show the public grounds."*

This paper city, for it was never anything more, was erroneously supposed to have been located in Iowa County, but a map in the State Historical rooms shows it to have been located as above stated. It never materialized even into a hamlet, with a blacksmithshop, but the location is one of great natural beauty, fit to be the capital of a great state.

WISCONSIN.

This was the name of a plat at the foot of the Lower Dells of the Wisconsin River, in the town of Newport, which became a village of considerable importance, but when the La Crosse and Milwaukee R. R. Co. located the line of their road further up stream and Byron Kilbourn platted Kilbourn City, the inhabitants of Wisconsin moved their houses and other belongings up to the new town site and Wisconsin Village became a reminiscence only. What was once a prosperous village is now but an ordinary farm.

Plats of other town sites have been made from time to time and filed with the Register of Deeds, but which never became incorporated. Those of Arlington, Okee, Doylestown and Wyocena "hold their own" at least, and furnish the farmers of the vicinity with good facilities for disposing of their produce and supply the wants of the rural communities with the merchandise most needed by them.

The villages of Otsego, Leeds Center, Dekorra and Randolph Center have yielded up the advantages which they, at one time, were thought to possess, to others more favorably located on railroads near

*Wisconsin Historical Collections, Vol. VI. p. 478.

by, while those of Oshaukuta and Inch have gone a glimmering and have disappeared from the map altogether.

"Emancipation Ferry," (Twiggs Ferry) in Fort Winnebago, and "Milford" at Dates Mill, in the same town, and "Potterville" in Scott, and DeSoto in West Point, also had their visions of importance on the map, but they never advanced beyond the stage of mazy speculation, and never found a place on the map.

CHAPTER IX.

THE NOMENCLATURE OF COLUMBIA COUNTY.

In connection with the foregoing narrative of the evolution of Columbia County, the origin of the names which appear in its history may be appropriate. While that of every town cannot be stated, what is given in the following is believed to be authentic.

WINNEBAGO PORTAGE—The term "portage," as applied to this point, meant the "carrying place" of the early voyagers or traders across the narrow strip of land that separates the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers, which was within the territory of the Winnebago Indians, their name for it being "Wau-wau-ah-na" or, as it became contracted to, "Wauona." It was called "Winnebago Portage" to distinguish it from the "portage" between the Waupaca and Plover Rivers, which was known as the "Plover Portage." Wauona, in the Winnebago Indian tongue, translated literally, means, "carry on the shoulder."

PORT HOPE—What constitutes the present town of Fort Winnebago was first christened "Port Hope." It having become known that it was a part of the plan of the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers Improvement Company to establish a landing, or port, at a certain point on the Fox River, near where the residence of the late Jonathan Whitney stood, Mr. W. hastened to the land office and entered the land and made a plat of a town site, to which he gave the name "Port Hope," and he also procured the establishment of a postoffice there with that name. The term "Port Hope" was simply expressive of a *hope* that a *port* would be established there, but the port never materialized, and the hope that it would vanished as in a dream in the Long Ago.

NEWPORT—In the early days, when the lumbermen rafted their products to market, there was a certain point on the Wisconsin River, a little below Kilbourn City, on its west bank, where they were accustomed to tie up their rafts, but when a new town was about to be organized on the east side of the river the tying up point was changed to that side, which was a new port or landing for the rivermen, and "Newport" was given the name of the town when it was organized.—*A. Chamberlin.*

LEWISTON—When this town was organized its name was given to it in honor of ex-Sheriff E. F. Lewis, the first settler of the town; Mr. L. himself had proposed "Beaver Creek" as the name. The beaver dams of the town retain their original distinctness.

CALEDONIA—This town was first settled by Scotchmen who gave to it the name of their old Caledonia.

MARCELLON—At a gathering of the early settlers of the town, then a part of "Wyocenia precinct," they decided to ask for a post-office for their convenience, and the petition that was sent forward asked that the postoffice be named "Massillon" in honor of the great French pulpit orator, but the postoffice department suggested that some other name be selected as there was already a very important office of that name in Ohio. The organization of a town by the name of Massillon was then being agitated which was soon accomplished, but the scribe who handled the pen wrote "Marrsellon" instead, and it appeared on the plat as "Marrsellon," but was afterward changed to Marcellon, which signifies nothing in its present form.—*W. C. Albee.*

DEKORRA—This town was named after the famous Winnebago Chief of that name. The spelling of the name of it, as here given, is as it was finally adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Columbia County, although it was first spelled with one "r." It usually appears in the Wisconsin Historical Collections as "DeKauray." Perhaps the spelling is a matter of taste as the old chief never spelled his own name at all. It sometimes appears as "Decorra," "Dekorrah," "Decorah," "DaKouray," "Dekora," "Decorri," and if there is any other way in which it can be spelled it has probably been spelled that way, too. "Dekorrah," however, was himself named "DeCarrie" after Sebrevoir De Carrie, an officer in the French army who was mortally wounded at Quebec in 1760, and who had previously been a fur

trader among the Winnebago Indians. The old chief was a reputed grandson of De Carrie, but that may admit of some question, for the Dekorra's that still abide with us do not give much evidence of ancestors of high degree, although the old chief was worthy of the high esteem in which he was held by the whites. So it would seem that the "Dekorra" of today, traced back to its origin, is "De Carrie."

POYNETTE—As early as 1836, Lieut. A. S. Hooe and Wallis Rowan filed a plat of the village of "Pauquette" which was identical with the present village of "Poynette." At a session of the board of supervisors in 1850, an attempt was made to organize the town of "Pauquette" embracing portions of the present towns of Dekorra and Arlington, but it failed. About the same time, or a little earlier, a petition was sent to Washington asking for the establishment of a post-office with that name, but it was so written as to resemble "Poynette" instead of "Pauquette," as the scribe had intended, and it was so named at first. No attempt to have the error corrected appears to have been made, and it was allowed to stand, meaningless as it was, and the name of the pleasant little village followed the name of the postoffice with the final *e* added, and it is likely it will always remain so, thus defrauding the famous old scout and trader of what was designed to be an enduring compliment to him.

WYOCENA—The origin of the name of this town is involved in some obscurity. That it is not of Indian derivation is certain, for no Indian, Winnebago, Menominee, Pottawattomie, Sac or other tribe that occupied territory in interior Wisconsin, has been found who could recognize the word. A variety of reasons for its selection has been advanced, but the only thing positively known is that it was named by Elbert Dickason, the first settler of the town. The story that has obtained general credence in the town is that the Major "dreamed it out" while cogitating over a name for the village he imagined was to spring up there, and maybe he did. The more probable reason is found in the opinion of Major Dickason's son, A. J., which was that it was carved out of the words *Tinnevelly Senna* (Wild Senna) which, he said, was found in that vicinity in early times, which however, is doubted by some of the inhabitants of the town at the present time. This theory may be accepted with much assurance that it is correct if Wild Senna is or ever was found there. It is not a violent stretch of the imagina-

tion to see the evolution of "Wild Senna" to "Wyocena." It is an appropriate and a musical name at all events.

ARLINGTON—Through the influence of Mr. Jeremy Bradley, one of the early leading citizens of the town, a postoffice had been established in the town called "Arlington," the name having been selected by him without any special purpose in view other than to have a pleasant name for the office. When the town came to be organized the name which had been selected for the postoffice naturally found favor.—*H. J. Sill.*

KOSSUTH—This was the name first given to Leeds and the east half of Arlington. The name was selected in honor of the illustrious Magyar, Louis Kossuth, who was making a tour of the United States about that time advocating Hungarian independence, his eloquent speeches arousing great enthusiasm.

LEEDS—This name was selected in honor of Leeds, of Yorkshire, some of whose leading citizens were from that locality.

DYER'S BURGH—This was the name of the precinct now constituting the towns of Otsego and Hampden and was given to it in compliment to Wayne B. Dyer, one of the very early settlers of Otsego.

HAMPDEN—This town was first known as a part of "Dyer's Burgh Precinct" which was subsequently changed to "Springfield" and later still was given its present name. Presumably this name was selected in honor of the great English patriot, John Hampden, whose fame was so dear to Englishmen, by Thomas B. Haslam, a sturdy old Englishman who had made his residence in that town.

COLUMBUS—This name was selected, of course, in honor of the great Genoese navigator who had sailed his ships to the Western continent in 1492, and gave the world a knowledge of his discoveries.

FOUNTAIN PRAIRIE—This name was selected as an appropriate one by reason of the numerous boiling springs or small fountains, springing forth in various localities within its borders.

SCOTT—This name was selected in honor of the illustrious general who had gained distinction at Lundy's Lane, and elsewhere in the war of 1812 and later gained the plaudits of his countrymen by leading the American forces from Vera Cruz to the Halls of Montezuma in Mexico, and was the Whig candidate for president in 1852.

PACIFIC—The name of this town was bestowed upon it by its

founder, N. H. Wood. The particular reason for its selection may not be stated with exactitude but it has been stated, with much plausibility, that Mr. Wood, in looking over the wide spreading meadows in the town, was impressed with the scene of the waving grasses and likened it to a vast expanse of water rolling under a gentle breeze, so great indeed that nothing could be likened to it but an ocean, and a big ocean at that, and "Pacific" was what he had in his mind. This is probably, but may not be positively stated, the real origin of the name.

PLEASANT VALLEY—This was the name originally given to the present town of Lodi, West Point and the west half of Arlington, a name that, with much appropriateness, might have been retained for the town of Lodi upon its organization. Why Lodi was selected, is unknown to the writer, but the presumption is, that it was from its similarity to the fertile district of that name in Lombardy where Bonaparte gained his famous victory over the Austrians; or possibly some citizen from Lodi, New York, may have been instrumental in bringing his eastern home name to Wisconsin.

WEST POINT—This name was undoubtedly selected because of its geographical location in the county, being the extreme western portion of the southern part of the county. The name "Portland" had first been asked for, in petitioning for the organization of the town, which was changed to "Bloomfield" by the committee of the board, in recommending its organization, but in the formal order creating it, it appeared as "West Point," a highly appropriate name, but somewhat marred by an inadvertant omission of about 100 acres in range six in the extreme west part of the town, which was left outside of town organization altogether.

SPRINGVALE—At a meeting of representative citizens of this town at which Robert Closs, D. D. Jennings, Rufus Rogers and A. P. Foster were present, the question of a name for the new town they were about to ask the board to organize, was considered. Several names were suggested for it, fully canvassed and the name "Springvale" was agreed upon by reason of the numerous springs in the valleys of the town; so says our informant, Thomas Meredith.

LOWVILLE—So named in honor of one of its earliest and most prominent citizens, Jacob Low.

PORTAGE PRAIRIE—This name was bestowed upon the town of

that name as a most appropriate one by reason of its location on the usually traveled route at that time between Milwaukee and Portage, to distinguish it from other prairies to the east and northeast.

LEROY—This precinct was named for one of the famous "Roi" or "LeRoy" families, (French Canadians) who were early inhabitants of this county, one of whom had established himself on one of the streams having its source in the south part of Green Lake county, who married a daughter of the famous Lecuyer, at Winnebago Portage.

RANDOLPH (town)—This town was originally known as "LeRoy Precinct" together with the adjoining towns but was afterward changed to "Portage Prairie," and finally to the name it now has. This was done at the instance of John Converse, one of its earliest and most prominent citizens, in honor of his home town of the same name in Vermont, from which he emigrated to Wisconsin. When a name for the town was under consideration "Luzerne" had been practically agreed upon, but a dispute arose as to the orthography, some insisting that it should be spelled with an "s" and others with a "c," which was settled by adopting "Randolph."—*W. T. Whirry*.

OTSEGO—This town was so named through the influence of one of its prominent citizens in honor of his eastern home of the same name in New York.

COURTLAND—No reason for the selecting of this name for the town has ever come to my knowledge.

RIO—This village was named after the postoffice of that name which had previously been established there. The name appears to have been selected without rhyme or reason therefor, as far as can be discerned.

PARDEEVILLE—This village was named after its founder, John Pardee, one of the substantial business men of the county.

KILBOURN CITY—Was named for Byron Kilbourn, president of the La Crosse & Milwaukee R. R. Co., (now the C., M. & St. P. R. R. Co.) who caused the line of the road to be changed from where it was originally projected to cross the Wisconsin River at the old village of Newport, to the point where it now spans that stream.

RANDOLPH VILLAGE—The name of this village was first called "Converseville" after John Converse, who erected the first house in the village proper. The village, before incorporation, was in Dodge County, and the name of the town in which it was situated was "West-

ford," but in 1879 it was incorporated as a village, and was made to include that portion of the town of Courtland in Columbia, which is called "West Ward."

CHAPTER X.

SIGNIFICATION OF INDIAN NAMES.

It has been deemed fitting to include in this volume a brief statement of the meaning of the Indian names appearing in it, but more particularly of those local in Columbia County. In doing so, I desire at the outset to remind the reader that the authorities are often so conflicting, that no matter where information may be sought for on that point, confidence as to its correctness is not to be implicitly relied upon. There is good authority for everything that herein appears but, as stated, the authorities are often found in disagreement. In such cases the interpretation which appears to have received the most general acceptance has been used.

Again, what may appear to be disagreements, will be found to be no disagreement at all, when it is remembered that different tribes had entirely different words to express the same meaning. For example, the Winnebago word for "a portage" is "Wau wau ah-na," now contracted to "Wauona" while the Sioux word for it is "O ning-ah-ming," meaning the same thing. A tribe living on a great lake or river had its own reason for the name it gave to it, while another tribe living on another part of it, would have a totally different meaning for the name it applied to it. So, instead of conflict each interpretation, from its own standpoint, would be correct.

In the spelling of the names there was, and could have been, no established rule of orthography to be applied to them. Even if they had desired to, few persons would have been able to spell the names alike. The early visitor to a tribe, attempting to spell its name, or a word, the pronunciation of which he had but imperfectly understood, and which would often greatly vary, was at a great disadvantage, even if he had been able to spell an ordinary word, which he frequently was not able to do. So he simply "spelled at it," and not infrequently would spell the same name or word in as many different ways as he had occasion to use it. As the word passed along down the line a different

rendering of it, not only in its pronunciation but in its meaning and spelling as well, would appear. So, as we are told by Legler in his reference to "Indian Nomenclature" the Indian name "Menominee" has 84 variants or different ways in which it has been spelled, and a number of different meanings given to it, but "Wild Rice Men" is the meaning now almost universally accepted, as the correct interpretation. And our "Winnebago" has been transformed from Allouez' "Ovinobigoutz" to its present form, and we get, "Wisconsin" from Perrot's "Ouisconchinz," and like transformations appear in every other Indian name as now written. For more complete information on Indian Nomenclature the reader is referred to a small volume of which Mr. Henry E. Legler is the author. I have made liberal use of it, and of various articles in the collections of the Wisconsin State Historical Society in the compilation of what follows: The meaning of names local in Columbia County, I have obtained from original sources and interviews with various Winnebago Indians, and may, I think, be accepted with much assurance as to their correctness.

Mississippi—A corruption from Mishi-Sibi; mishi, or misi, meaning "large;" sibi, meaning "river;" thus meaning "Large River—Verwyst.—(Mihchi-zee-bih)—Big river. The Indians never speak of the Mississippi as the Father of Waters—that is rather fanciful, but invariably refer to it as the Big River. The Winnebagoes called it Ne koonts-Ha-takah—Ne-koonts meaning "river," ha-ta-kah "large." The Sioux called it Wat-pa-ton-go—watpa, "river," and tonga, "large." Sauks designated it as Mecha Sapo; Menominees, Mecha-Sepua; Kickapoos, Meche-Sepe; Chippewas, Meze-Zebe; Ottawas, Mis-sis-se-pi, all variations of the same. (Traditions and Recollections of Prairie du Chien, by B. W. Brisbois, Wis. Hist. Coll. Vol. 9.)

Wisconsin—"A wild rapid stream."—It has other translations but this one is generally accepted as the correct one. Another name for it is Kee-ko-sa-ra, signifying "River of Flowery Banks."—Canfield.—As with other geographical names derived from Indian sources, the real meaning of the word Wisconsin (Chippewa origin) is so obscure as to be in dispute. The popular translation is "wild, rushing channel," a definition that accords well with the nature of the stream, but which nevertheless is of doubtful authenticity. Another rendering, "the gathering of the waters," is pronounced absurd by students of the Algonquin tongue.—Mrs. Charlotte Ouisconsin Van Cleve, in her "Three Score Years and Ten" says that the Indians termed the stream Nee-na-hoo-na-ninka (beautiful little river).—It is claimed by

Consul W. Butterfield that the name is derived from the physical features of its lower course, where are observable the high lands or river hills. "Some of these hills present high and precipitous faces toward the water. Others terminate in knobs. The name is supposed to have been taken from this feature, the word being derived from Missi, 'great,' and Os sin, 'a stone, or rock.' " The word Wisconsin is the result of considerable change from the first rendering. On Marquette's genuine map, where the stream is indicated for the first time, no name is put down. Joliet's map gives it as Miskonsing. Friar Hennepin wrote it Ouisconsin and again Misconsin, and the French traveler Charlevoix, who visited this country early in the eighteenth century, gave his preference to this form: Ouisconsin. It was not long before the final letter was dropped, and this form was retained until the present English spelling superseded that of the French.—*Legler*.

Michigan (Michigami)—"A large body of water."—*Verwyst*.

Ohio—"Beautiful river."

Winnebago—Les puants; "fetid water" or "muddy water."

Kickapoos—What?

Menominee—"Folles Avoines;" "wild rice men." This word has 84 variants or different forms in which it is spelled.—*Legler*.

Milwaukee—The name Milwaukee is regarded as of Pottawatomie origin. As many meanings have been ascribed to the word as there are modes of spelling—and these have been many. The most generally accepted version of the meaning of Milwaukee is, that the original Indian word signified council place, and that here was neutral ground. Old residents say that it is a fact that the Indians regarded the east side of the river as a sort of gathering place.—*Legler*.

Milwaukee—A rich or beautiful land; pronounced by the Indians Me-ne-aw-kee. (Louis Moran.) The name of Milwaukee exhibits an instance of which there are many others, in which the French have substituted the sound of the letter l in place of n, in Indian words. Min in the Algonquin languages signifies good. Waukie is a derivation from aukie, earth or land, the fertility of the soil along the banks of that stream being the characteristic trait which is described in the Indian compound.

Mascoutens—Gens de Feu—"Fire nation." Charlevoix, a high authority says the true name is "Mascoutenec" which signifies "an open country." This latter rendering is now quite generally accepted as correct, and the Mascoutens, as it should be written, are "People from the prairie."

Outagamis, or "Foxes"—Les Renards; "sly" or "cunning."

Sauks, Sacs, Sakis—"Entrance to river." Locally, "Sac" is generally

pronounced "Sack," erroneously, I believe. As both Sauk and Sac stand for the same thing, although spelled differently, they should be pronounced alike, I think, "Sauk."

Roche-a-Cris—(*Fr.*) Rock surrounded by water.

Foxes—They called themselves "Musquakis" from Muskwa, "red," and aki, "land." The French called them Les Renards, meaning "sly."

Superior—Kitchi Gami, or as Longfellow has rendered it, Gitchee-Gumee, its equivalent being "Big water."

Michilimacinac, now Mackinaw—Isle de la Tortue. "Turtle island" or "big turtle."

Waupaca—Tomorrow. Named in connection with Weyauwega, which means "here we rest." Ascending the slack waters of the Wolf and Waupaca rivers to the former place, the red men were wont to encamp there for the night and on the morrow would resume their journey. Hence the terms "resting place" and "tomorrow" bestowed by them on these places.

Butte-des-Morts—(*Fr.*) "Hill of the Dead."

Wau-Bun—"The early day" or "early morn."—*Mrs. Kinzie.*

Wauona—Originally "Wau-wau-ah-na" (Winnebago) "Portage"—To "carry" or "place for carrying on the shoulder." The Sioux word for a portage was "O-ning-ah-ming," also meaning "a carrying place."

Puckaway or Apuckaway—Both words are in common use. This name is generally understood to mean "wild rice" which is found in great abundance on its borders, but Mrs. Kinzie, in Wau-Bun, who was entirely conversant with the Winnebago tongue, and who had frequently been on the lake, says it derived its name from the flags, or rushes which are also found in great abundance in its waters. Another authority states that its correct name is "Bokawe," from an Indian of that name who lived upon its banks, but it is doubtful.

Prairie du Chien—(*Fr.*) Dog's prairie, from the name of a Sauk chief.

Petite Roche—(*Fr.*) Little rock; an early land mark on the Wisconsin river not far from the mouth of Honey Creek.

Pete-en-well—A high rock on the banks of the Wisconsin River in Juneau County. A corruption of the Indian word "Pe-ton-won," signifying "quiver," from its fancied resemblance when seen at a distance to one well filled with arrows."—*Gen. A. G. Ellis.* Other renderings of the word have been given but the above is entitled to the greatest consideration as Gen. Ellis was one of the earliest settlers on the Upper Wisconsin and was entirely familiar with the Indian tongue.

Oshaukuta—"Big spear" or perhaps a "great place for spearing."

Baraboo—(French) Barribault—The Winnebago Indian name for the stream, "Ocoochery," signifying "plenty of fish."—*Canfield*.

Montello—(Spanish.) "Hill by the water." Named by a returned Mexican war soldier.

Waubesa—"Swan Lake."

Mazo-Manie—"Moose Berries." An entirely different version of the name of this town is given in Kittle's History of the township and village of Mazomanie which states that the name first given to the place was "Man-ze-mon-e-ka or "Iron Walker" the name of the Indian who killed Pauquette at Portage. Several years later, Mr. E. H. Brodhead heard of the tragedy and changed the name to Mazomanie.

Neenah—"Water."

Okee—"Black earth."

Packwaukee—"Forest opening."

Lemonweir—What ?

CHAPTER XI.

AN EARLY MAP OF COLUMBIA COUNTY.

One of the earliest maps, if not the very earliest, of Wisconsin, was the one published in 1830 by John Farmer, of Detroit. "Roi's" (Le-Roy) house occupies the site where Fort Winnebago was being erected, the government having purchased his interest in the premises at a liberal price, although he was but simply a "squatter" there without any real title to the premises. The Fort appears on it as *between* the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers. The Baraboo River is given as "Bonibau's Creek" while Duck Creek appears by its French name "*Riviere Canards*." Neenah Creek is put down as a branch of the Fox, while the balance of the Fox, from its confluence with the Neenah, appears as "Neenah Creek," running through Swan Lake.

Farmer's revised map of 1836, shows the counties of Crawford, Brown, Iowa, and Milwaukee, the latter spelled "Milwalky." Fort Winnebago appears on this edition in its correct position, east of the Fox, and there is but one road leading from it, the old military road.

The first map of "Wisconsin Territory Compiled from Public Surveys" (no date) contains a representation of so much of the present county of Columbia as lies east of the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers—

then a part of Portage County. A proposed canal runs from the outlet of Swan Lake to a point near the mouth of Big Duck Creek, on section thirty-three. Duck Creek appears on the map as "Wauonah River;" Rocky Run as "Taynah River" and Spring Creek as "Ockee River." Pauquette is a small village; another one is "Ida" on the north side of Swan Lake, where "Oakwood Park" is now located, and "Dekorrah" on the Wisconsin appears, with a road running directly east from it and then branches, one branch running in the direction of "Hochimyra" now Horicon, Dodge County. The other one takes a northwesterly direction to the south side of Fox Lake where was then the village of "Waushara."

CHAPTER XII.

LAND ENTRIES IN COLUMBIA COUNTY.

All of the lands embraced within the limits of Columbia County were not brought into market at the same time. The following table gives the date when the first entries of land were made in the several towns, etc., of the county, the name of the person making the entry and a description of the land entered, as the facts appear on the books in the office of the County Clerk. It should be remarked, however, that the person who made the first entry was not always the first settler of the town. Some tracts were entered simply as an investment; in other cases the first settler would sometimes delay in making an entry, deeming his occupancy sufficient for the time being, as it was not regarded as a prudent thing to do to "jump" a settler's claim.

The lands lying east and south of the Wisconsin river were surveyed in 1832, 1833 and 1834 and were placed in two land districts called the Green Bay land district with the land office at Green Bay, and the Wisconsin land district with the land office at Mineral Point. Public sales of the surveyed lands were held in 1835. The lands north of the Wisconsin river and west of the Fox were surveyed in 1851 and were placed in market in 1852. The town lines of Caledonia were run in 1840 and 1845 and were subdivided in 1842 and 1845 and were placed in market in 1846.

TOWN	NAME	DESCRIPTION		ENTERED
			S. T. R.	
Arlington	Wallis Rowan.....	se ¹ ₄ ne ¹ ₄	3 10 9	June 6, 1836.
Caledonia	Joseph Ward.....	se ¹ ₄ se ¹ ₄	19 12 8	Dec. 18, 1846.
"	A. J. Hewitt.....	n ¹ ₂ ne ¹ ₄	30 12 8	Dec. 18, 1846.
Courtland.....	Peter Goulden.....	e ¹ ₂ se ¹ ₄	10 12 12	June 5, 1844.
Columbus, City ..	Lewis Ludington.....	se ¹ ₄	12 12 12	Feb. 18, 1839.
"	"	ne ¹ ₄	13 12 12	Feb. 18, 1839.
"	John Hustis.	sw ¹ ₄	12 12 12	Feb. 18, 1839.
"	"	nw ¹ ₄	13 12 12	Feb. 18, 1839.
Columbus, Town..	Lewis Ludington.....	e ¹ ₂	24 12 12	Feb. 18, 1839.
Dekorah	Wallis Rowan.....	ne ¹ ₄ se ¹ ₄	34 11 9	June 6, 1836.
Fort Winnebago..	Robert McPherson....	e ¹ ₂ se ¹ ₄	26 13 9	Aug. 11, 1836.
"	"	se ¹ ₄	27 13 9	Aug. 11, 1836.
Fountain Prairie..	James C. Carr.....	w ¹ ₂ nw ¹ ₄	34 11 12	July 19, 1843.
Hampden	Alfred Topliff.....	sw ¹ ₄ ne ¹ ₄	11 10 11	June 28, 1844.
Leeds	John Dalziel	nw ¹ ₄ nw ¹ ₄	26 10 10	Oct. 3, 1844.
Lewiston	E. F. Lewis	nw ¹ ₄	21 13 8	Oct. 28, 1832.
Lodi.....	Ebenezer Hale.....	nw ¹ ₄	21 10 8	June 21, 1836.
Lowville.....	Catherine Low	e ¹ ₂ ne ¹ ₄	32 11 10	May 10, 1845.
Marcellon	Hiram McDonald.....	nw ¹ ₄ sw ¹ ₄	29 13 10	Feb. 15, 1836.
Newport.....	Michael Laffan.....	sw ¹ ₄	12 13 6	Oct. 11, 1832.
Otsego.....	Samuel Emery.....	se ¹ ₄ ne ¹ ₄	10 11 11	Dec. 27, 1843.
Pacific	David Butterfield....	lot 3	1 12 9	Jan. 30, 1836.
Portage	Augustin Grignon* ...			Apr. 26, 1832.
Randolph.....	Mary Perry.....	w ¹ ₂ nw ¹ ₄	12 13 12	Feb. 8, 1844.
Scott.....	John Dodge.....	e ¹ ₂ se ¹ ₄	34 13 11	Feb. 8, 1844.
Springvale.....	"	w ¹ ₂ se ¹ ₄	1 12 11	April 29, 1845.
West Point.....	S. Taylor, et al. †....	lot No. 5	2 10 7	Mar. 9, 1836.
Wyocena.....	Joseph W. Turner.....	lots 5, 11, 12	5 12 10	June 17, 1836.
"	"	lot 5	6 12 10	June 17, 1836.
Lodi, Village	Ebenezer Hale.....	nw ¹ ₄	21 10 8	July 21, 1836.
Cambria.....	James Waunkie	ne ¹ ₄ ne ¹ ₄	6 10 12	April 2, 1845.
Randolph, Village.	Allen Brunson	e ¹ ₂ se ¹ ₄	10 10 12	April 29, 1846.
Rio.	Jeremiah Folsom, Jr...	ne ¹ ₄ ne ¹ ₄	10 10 11	Aug. 28, 1847.
Fall River.....	John Brown.....	ne ¹ ₄ ne ¹ ₄	34 11 12	Oct. 18, 1843.
Kilbourn City....	C. F. Legate	n ¹ ₂ ne ¹ ₄	12 13 6	Dec. 7, 1852.
Pardeeville.....	W. W. Haskin.....	s ¹ ₂ nw ¹ ₄	10 12 10	Jan. 8, 1848.
Poynette	James Duane Doty....	e ¹ ₂ sw ¹ ₄	34 11 9	Feb. 8, 1837.
"	"	w ¹ ₂ se ¹ ₄	34 11 9	Feb. 8, 1837.
"	Alex. S. Hooe	ne ¹ ₄	34 11 9	Feb. 8, 1837.

*French Claim No. 21 was patented to Mr. Grignon by President Jackson, as per act of Congress, April 26, 1832.

†It has been very generally understood that the tract of land entered by Wallis Rowan, in Decorah, June 6, 1836, was the first tract of land entered in Columbia County. Mr. Rowan was the first man to occupy and cultivate land in the county, but Mr. Taylor et al.'s entry of lot 5, section 2, town 10, range 7, was the first tract entered. The lot is an island in the Wisconsin River and is owned, at present, by the Merrimac Brick Co.

The $\text{sw}\frac{1}{4}$, $\text{nw}\frac{1}{4}$, section 27, town 12, range 8 was entered Dec. 26, 1848, by Leon Brent, (sometimes written "Leon Braux," and at other times as "Lembro") and the $\text{e}\frac{1}{2}$ on $\text{w}\frac{1}{4}$, section 27, town 12, range 8, was entered Oct. 19, 1848, by Ursule Dekorra, but they had occupied the lands, and opened up farms, after a fashion, much prior to these dates.

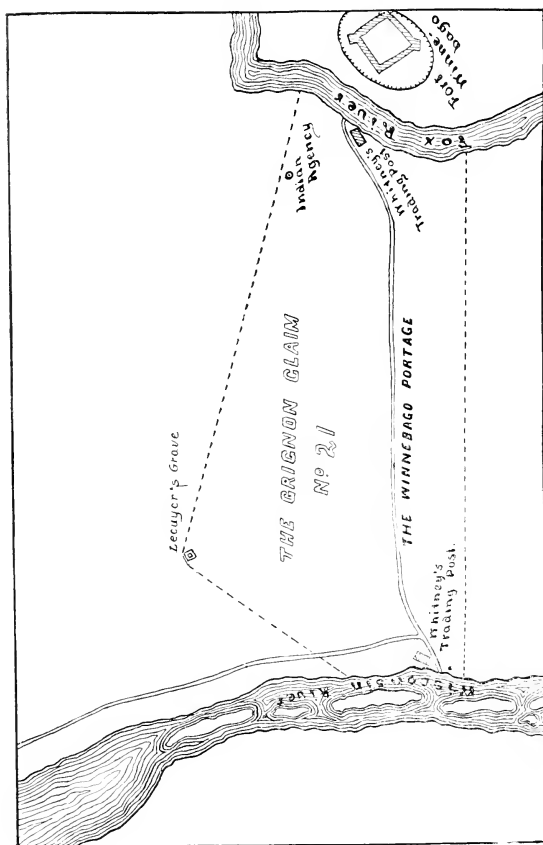
Section 31, town 11, range 8, was patented by President Polk direct to Therese Gagnier and her two children, Francois and Louise, as part compensation for the murder of Registe Gagnier, and the scalping of his wife by Red Bird and others of the Winnebago Indians near Prairie du Chien, Mrs. G. having been allowed to select two full sections of land belonging to the Indians wherever they chose.

CHAPTER XIII.

THE GRIGNON TRACT.

The tract of land commonly known as the "Grignon Tract" [pronounced Green-yo] or "French Claim No. 21," was the first parcel of land conveyed to a citizen in Columbia County by the general government. It embraces all the First ward and some portions of the Second, Third and Fourth wards of Portage and constituted all there was of Portage until the Menominee Indian lands came into market in 1849. The lands were patented to Augustin Grignon by President Andrew Jackson, April 26, 1832.

By the stipulations contained in the "Jay Treaty," made with Great Britain in 1796, the British government formally withdrew from the territory in the northwest which she had continued to occupy after the treaty of peace acknowledging the independence of the colonies had been concluded. By that treaty the French Canadian settlers were confirmed in their rights to the lands they occupied, but it required legislation by Congress to enable them to obtain titles to land that could be conveyed. Congress applied the stipulations contained in the "Jay Treaty," by which the French settlers were accepted as citizens and guaranteed protection to them in the possession of their property. The presumption was that the occupants of the lands had obtained some sort of title from the Indians, but proof of occupancy was re-



quired. The claim in question probably could have been conveyed to John B. L'Ecuyer, but he had conveyed his rights, in so far as he might so do, to Mr. Grignon, who also had occupied, for a time, the lands in question. As there was still some doubt as to who was entitled to priority, the lands were conveyed to Mr. Grignon, "saving the rights of John Ecuyer (or Lecuyer) deceased."

A description of the lands so conveyed is given herewith, with a diagram of the same.

The angle in the tract, at its most northerly point, is near the junction of Conant and Adams streets, and is the point mentioned in the deed as "the corner of the pickets which surround the grave of the late John Ecuyer." The line was run in that manner to take in not only Ecuyer's grave, but that of the Indian burying ground which was located there, and on which the Catholic church was, or was about to be erected, which was the first church built between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River in Wisconsin, but which was destroyed by fire about 1840.

UNITED STATES TO AUGUSTIN GRIGNON.

The United States of America to all whom these presents shall come, greeting:

Know ye that there has been deposited in the general Land Office a certificate, number 266, of the Register of the Land Office at Detroit, in the Territory of Michigan, whereby it appears that, by the second section of the act of Congress, approved on the 17th day of April, 1828, entitled "An Act to confirm certain claims to lands in the Territory of Michigan," Augustin Grignon was confirmed saving the rights of the heirs of John Ecuyer (Lecuyer), deceased, in his claim in volume numbered one of the Reports of the Commissioners on Land Claims in the Territory of Michigan, to the tract of land containing six hundred and forty-eight acres and eighty-two hundredths of an acre, situate at the portage of the Wisconsin and Fox Rivers bounded and described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning on the northeast bank of the Ouisconsin River one fourth of a mile below the landing place, at a post from which a birch 12 inches in diameter bears north 35 degrees west, distant eleven links, and a birch 14 inches diameter bears south 64 degrees east, distant 75 links: thence up the river north, forty degrees west twenty chains, to the landing place, (entered prairie at five chains) north seventy degrees, west five chains, north sixty-one degrees, west 26 chains and 50 links, (at three chains foot of island) south 81 degrees, west eight chains and 50 links to an aspen seven inches in diameter (corner on the bank of the river); thence north ten degrees and 15 minutes west thirty chains through prairie to the top of the hill to the corner of the pickets which surround the grave of the late John Ecuyer (no pose, no bearings near): thence north fifty degrees east, (at fifteen chains enter barrens, after passing through old field, at 41 chains a pond, at 46 chains left the pond, and at 58 chains a

wet prairie), 118 chains to a post on the left bank of the Fox River, from which a white oak five inches in diameter bears north 56¹/₂ degrees west, distant three chains and 46 links; thence up Fox River south five degrees, west three chains, south 16 degrees, west 9 chains and 50 links to landing place at Portage, south 47 degrees, east 23 chains and 40 links to a post on the margin of river in a marsh; thence south 25 degrees and thirty minutes, west 116 chains and 70 links, (entering timber land at 100 chains) to the beginning.

There is, therefore, granted by the United States unto the said Augustin Grignon and to his heirs, saving any right or claim which the said heirs of John Ecuyer, deceased, may have in and to the same, the tract of land above described: to have and to hold the said tract, with the appurtenances, unto the said Augustin Grignon and unto his heirs and assigns forever, saving, as aforesaid, any right, title or claim which the said heirs of John Ecuyer, deceased, may have in and to the hereby granted premises.

In testimony whereof, I, Andrew Jackson, President of the United States, have caused these letters to be made patent, and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed. Given under my hand, at the city of Washington, the 26th day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, and of the independence of the United States the fifty-ninth.

ANDREW JACKSON.



ELIJAH HAYWOOD,
Commissioner of the General Land Office.
By the President.

Recorded on Friday, the 17th of August, A. D., 1832, at 6 o'clock P. M.

SAMUEL IRWIN, Deputy Register.

CHAPTER XIV.

THE POTTERS' EMIGRATION SOCIETY.

"The Potters' Joint Stock Emigration Society and Savings Fund" was a topic which was much more in the minds of many people in this section some fifty years ago than it is now. Indeed it is rarely mentioned nowadays, and its existence is known to but few of the people of Columbia County of today. Notwithstanding its collapse, a result that uniformly happens to nearly all societies organized and conducted on the basis that this one was, it exercised a powerful influence on the welfare of a large number of people who were brought to Columbia County under its auspices. Some of them suffered loss, and all of them met with disappointment, but they were here and their temporary losses were soon turned into success, in other directions, by their investments in the cheap lands they found here. Many of them lived to enjoy great prosperity, and their descendants are found in large num-

bers in the north part of the county and the south part of the adjoining county of Marquette, and include many of the very best families of these counties.

The society had its origin in Staffordshire, England, in 1844, where the "Potters' Union" was supporting a large number of unemployed potters in idleness. The idea was conceived of organizing an emigration society in order to give these unemployed men, or others of their trade, an opportunity of emigrating to America where lands were cheap and industry was likely to be rewarded, thus relieving their country of surplus, and enabling those that remained to obtain better wages.

"The Potters' Joint Stock Emigration Society and Savings Fund" was organized according to an act of Parliament, May, 1844. Its declared object was to raise a fund, by weekly contributions from each member, according to the number of shares held by such members, to purchase in the Western States of the North American Union, 12,000 acres of land; to erect on the same buildings for the use of British operative potters desiring to emigrate, through the medium of shares, of not less than one pound each.

The objects of the society met with the approval of the large body of men in whose interest it was organized and, in 1846, when a sufficient fund had been accumulated, a committee was sent over to purchase lands and make such preparations as were necessary for the welfare of those who were to emigrate. The committee looked over the ground and selected 1640 acres in the town of Scott, Columbia County. This they had surveyed into twenty-acre tracts, on each of which was to be erected a dwelling house for the occupancy of the emigrants.

After a time an "Estate Committee" was appointed who were to accompany the emigrants and see that each member of the union entitled thereto should receive his just credits, when they arrived in Scott.

They found but four houses erected, all in an unfinished condition, and no real provision made for their comfort; but the committee was not at fault as they had not had sufficient time to execute the work necessary; and perhaps, the emigrants expected too much. But few people in Columbia County in those days were enjoying well furnished homes, and some of them were still living in their sod houses without complaining. Discouraging reports were sent back to England which

had the effect of crippling the work of the society. A reorganization of the society became necessary, and membership which had been limited to potters was thrown open to other trades.

On the first purchase of land by the society, in the town of Scott, were settled the first year 134 persons. The settlement was given the name of Pottersville. The new rules adopted by the society secured to each individual, who chose to avail himself of the privilege, twenty acres of land and two years' credit for twelve months' provisions on the store of the colony.

In 1849, Thomas Twiggs was sent out with full power to purchase 50,000 acres of land, and he did purchase a considerable amount, principally in the towns of Fort Winnebago and Moundville. On section 4 on the banks of the Fox River, at a place they called "Emancipation Ferry," now known as "Hume's Grove," Mr. Twiggs established a ferry, opened a store for the society and also put in operation a blacksmith shop. The store venture proved a failure. It was also a part of the plan to put a dam in Neenah Creek near Corning Station but the project was never entered upon. The society's affairs became so involved, that suits were brought against it, judgment obtained and a levy made upon the tract of land in the town of Scott. Friends of the parties living upon the land bought it at the sale and permitted the occupants to live upon it. All confidence in the society was now lost and it soon disbanded. Some of the emigrants returned to England, but the greater part of them remained, and the sons and grandsons of the Potters' Emigration Society may still be found here in large numbers, principally in Scott, Fort Winnebago, Moundville and Buffalo. Mr. Twiggs, the last manager of the society's affairs, died where he had established the ferry and is buried in the grove near by.

CHAPTER XV.

LOCATING THE COUNTY SEAT.

The organization of a new county and putting in motion the machinery for its government is always attended with more or less excitement and some friction, much of which is the locating of the county seat, or "shiretown," as it was called in the New England states. Columbia

(first Portage) County of course, had to go through the fomenting process, with others, for very few escape contests of that kind. The first step in that direction was the act of the Legislature, 1836, in which the seat of justice was established at the "town of Winnebago." The next was in 1838 when the seat of justice was established at "Kentucky City" (Dekorra). In 1841 the boundaries of the county were enlarged by extending them to the north line of the territory, and providing that the county officers should hold their offices at "Wisconsin Portage." (No name had ever been formally given to the locality by any legislative act.) In April, 1844, the people of the enlarged county voted upon the location of the county seat, the contestants being Plover and Fort Winnebago. There were no newspapers published in the county then and little is known at the present time of the line of argument used or methods employed to compass the results. They were effective, however, for the ballot boxes disclosed a majority of votes "For Plover" and it was declared the winner, and that was all there was to it. To the "pinery" our people were required to go and did go to transact their county business. It was not an ungracious task, however, for all who went there, or most of them, found opportunity to do a little business on the side and incidentally to "mak' some pleasurement" and enjoy the unbounded hospitality of the "pinery boys."

In 1846 Portage County was divided and Columbia County came into being under its present name. The act of organization provided for a vote on locating the county seat in April of that year with this result: Columbus, 97; Winnebago Portage 49; Duck Creek (Wyocena), 47; Dekorra, 33; Dyer's (Otsego), 10; Van Duer (Bendure's)*, 3. No place having received a majority of votes the act was found defective in not providing for such a contingency and the county seat remained unlocated.

At the next session of the Legislature, 1847, (Hon. Hugh McFarlane, representing the county in the Territorial legislature) an act was passed declaring the county seat temporarily located at Wyocena, and providing for a vote on the question at each annual election until some place should receive a majority. The election held Sept. 6 of that year, resulted as follows:

*On section 6, town 10, range 10.

	Columbus	Wyocena	Fort Winnebago	Dekorra	Fall River	Dyer's Burgh	SE ¹ / ₄ Sec. 5, Portage	Geographical Cen- ter of County
Winnebago Precinct.....	....	13	33	....	....	....	1	....
Dekorra .....	....	....	....	20	....	....	2	....
Columbus	174	19	....	....	15	1	....	....
Dyer's Burgh.....	19	19	....	....	....	2	10	1
Pleasant Valley	1	25	....	2	....	....	6	....
LeRoy	6	156	....	....	....	2	7	....
Wyocena	1	78	....	....	....	....	3	....
	301	397	33	22	15	5	29	1

No place having received a majority, the county seat remained temporarily at Wyocena.

In 1848 an act was passed which provided that for the term of five years the seat of justice should be at Columbus, and also provided that the several county offices should be removed to and held there as soon as suitable and convenient rooms or buildings should be provided therefor without expense or charge to the county.

In 1850 an act was passed authorizing a vote on permanently locating the county seat at Wyocena, the form of ballot prescribed being "For Wyocena" and "Against Wyocena." The poll was, as canvassed:

For Wyocena	580
Against Wyocena	507

The returns from several precincts were withheld or were rejected for informalities; the total vote polled, as canvassed, was:

	For Wyocena.	Against Wyocena.
Columbus.....	12	142
Fort Winnebago, (Portage).....	16	246
Fountain Prairie.....	86	3
Lowville.....	54	1
Marcellon	4	85
Otsego	75	10
Portage Prairie	81	....
Scott.....	51	20
Springvale.....	68	....
Wyocena.....	133	....
	580	507

The votes of the following precincts were not canvassed:

	For Wyocena.	Against Wyocena.
Lodi	1	36
West Point.....	7	19
Hampden	9	68
Kossuth.....	30	33
Dekorra.....	7	92
Port Hope.....		73

Another act of the legislature was obtained submitting the question to a vote of the people in April, 1851. The act authorized the electors to vote for the permanent location of the county seat at Fort Winnebago; and if said Fort Winnebago should receive a majority of all the votes cast on the subject, then Fort Winnebago should be and remain the county seat. If Fort Winnebago should not receive a majority of the votes then the county seat should be permanently established at Wyocena. The vote resulted as follows:

	Yes.	No.
Portage Prairie	20	43
Springvale	1	82
Wyocena.....	1	182
Dekorra	90	22
Otsego.....	2	79
Fountain Prairie		95
Columbus	119	50
Hampden	36	35
Kossuth	47	37
West Point.....	32	7
Lodi	41	6
Fort Winnebago.....	441	9
Port Hope.....	32	7
Marcellon	92	3
Scott.....	17	57
Randolph.....	69	32
Lowville.....	11	57
	<hr/> 1096	<hr/> 796

—a majority of 300 for Fort Winnebago. This vote definitely fixed the location of the county seat, at Fort Winnebago (now Portage).

THE ERECTION OF COUNTY BUILDINGS.

The county seat having been on wheels and the court house trundled around from one place to another, the erection of a court house was necessarily held in abeyance for several years. The county officers were housed in the Vandercook block at a rental of \$1000 per annum. The court room itself was quite adequate, but the offices were miserably inadequate, a fact which began to dawn upon the people of the county,

but the county fathers, as was but natural, dreaded to incur any expense which could possibly be avoided, no matter how urgent the demand—some of them moved by conscientious impulses, and others having the next election in mind. However, it became apparent that some action had to be taken in the near future.

At a meeting of the board of supervisors Nov. 21, 1861, the committee on county buildings consisting of G. H. Osborn, Hugh Jamieson and E. H. Wood, reported a series of resolutions recommending the erection of a court house. After reciting the necessity for county buildings, showing the cost for rent, etc., which was about \$1,400 per annum, the following resolution was reported:

Resolved, That a committee of five be elected by ballot by the present board, to take into consideration the matter of building county buildings.

Resolved, That the committee shall fix upon the amount required to build suitable buildings but shall not set the amount to exceed \$12,000 at a rate not exceeding eight per cent; and shall advertise for plans and specifications, setting forth the cost required and necessary directions which they, the committee, shall settle upon.

The resolutions, after considerable backing and filling, were tabled, ayes 12, noes 11.

THE COURT HOUSE.—The board of supervisors in 1863 consisted of three members instead of a representative from each town, etc., as it had been constituted before. The supervisors were L. W. Barden, chairman; Chas. L. Brown and Marcus Barden.

The business of the board having been about completed, the writer of this chapter, who was acting as deputy clerk of the board, motioned Judge Barden aside and suggested to him that the question of county buildings ought to be presented to the board. He laughingly replied that he didn't think it would be of any use to do so, but it might be well enough to agitate it. Returning to the board, I drew the following resolution which Mr. Barden submitted:

Resolved, That the sum of eight thousand dollars be levied and raised in the same manner that other county taxes are raised, for the purpose of building a court house, and that the same be paid over to the county treasurer, and held by him, subject to the order of the board of supervisors, for the purpose aforesaid.

The question was put on its adoption and Supervisor Brown voted

aye; Supervisor M. Barden remained silent and the chairman declared the resolution adopted and it was so minuted in the journal.

The next day, Dec. 9, the last act of the board before adjourning was the adoption of the following resolution, which was presented by Supervisor Brown:

Resolved, That J. W. Barden, chairman of the board of supervisors, be and is hereby instructed to procure plans and specifications for a court house, and receive proposals for a site for the same, which shall be submitted to the board at its next meeting.

Such were the initial steps taken for the erection of the court house which Columbia county possesses, accomplished by a single vote.

At the next meeting of the board, in January, 1863, consisting of W. W. Drake, M. Barden and Geo. M. Bartholomew, the "constituents" began to be heard from, and a strong effort was made to postpone the erection of county buildings. The war taxes were being felt and considerable complaint was made that the erection of county buildings should be entered upon at such an inopportune time. Supervisor Bartholomew set his face resolutely against any postponement, and the work of procuring plans, etc., was proceeded with.

A plan was presented by Alexander Carnegie, proposals were solicited and a contract was let to Prescott & Carnegie for building the court house for the sum of \$17,830. The site was presented to the county by the citizens of Portage.

An additional tax of \$10,000 was levied in the fall, which provided for the entire contract price for the building, and the tax payers of the county had paid for it in two annual levies without having recourses to the bugaboo of "bonds". The war prices which were prevailing for produce had made tax paying comparatively easy. Work on the building was commenced in the spring of the year, 1864, and was completed in the fall of 1865, at the contract price. With all incidental expenses, furniture, grading, side walks, an iron fence, (since removed) cisterns, wells, shade trees, etc., the entire cost was something less than \$26,000, but lumber was not bought at present day prices.

Since the court house was erected repairs and improvements incident to such buildings have been made. Steam heating has superceded the old box stove, modern lighting works, closets, water, etc., have been

put in and the court room has been rearranged, reseated and supplied with appropriate furniture. When it was built it was regarded as a pretty fine building, having been the second court house, of any pretensions, erected in the state, Brown county having built the first one. All the other counties had retained the first structures used for county purposes. The court houses built in recent years surpass ours, in many ways, architectural beauty, convenience in some particulars and greatly in expense, but few of them are better adapted, in every respect, for the purposes for which they were erected than that of Columbia county's and with some additions from time to time, for vault room, there would seem to be no good reason why it should not serve all the needs of the county for another forty years. Then Columbia County will again set the style for other counties which have a need for replacing their court houses.

REGISTER OF DEEDS' OFFICE—The destruction of court houses by fire and attendant loss of county records, which were occurring with so much frequency in various parts of the state, so alarmed the authorities of Columbia County that the erection of an office for the Register of Deeds was decided upon in 1894, and a fireproof building, apart from the court house, was erected in 1895. This building is so constructed that the people of the county may rest assured that the titles to property, recorded in that office, are absolutely safe from destruction by fire.

THE COUNTY JAIL—The county jail stands apart from the court house, half a mile or more distant, on a block devoted entirely to it. The block was donated to the county by Webb & Bronson, for county purposes with the expectation that all of the county buildings would be erected upon it, but the growth of the city having been in another direction, it has not been deemed advisable to erect additional county county buildings there, and the authorities have felt that they are under some sort of obligation to maintain some, at least, of the county buildings in that block.

The jail was first erected in 1851 but was destroyed by fire in 1864. Another one was built in that year, but in after years, with the advent of "the tourists," it was found to be quite inadequate for county purposes and, in 1887, a new jail and sheriff's residence, at a cost of \$17,335.13 was erected. Many improvements have been made in its surroundings

and altogether the buildings and grounds present an attractive appearance.

THE COUNTY POOR HOUSE AND HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE—This building, originally the Columbia county poor house, is situated in the village of Wyocena, the first structure having been built in 1858. Since then the structure has given place to a larger and more commodious building with a fine hospital for the insane added to it, and the county now possesses an institution for the care of its indigent, and insane, which is entirely commensurate with its needs and is creditable to the county and its management in every respect. Large farms have been added to the property which give the inmates the needed employment.

CHAPTER XVI.

COUNTY OFFICERS OF COLUMBIA COUNTY.

Following is a list of the persons who have served as county officers from the organization of the county down to the present time:

COUNTY JUDGES.

(The title of this office was first called "Probate Judge.")

1847 —Silas Walsworth*	1861-64—John T. Clark
1847-48—James T. Lewis	1865-80—Joshua J. Guppy
1849 —Moses R. Cobb†	1881-92—Levi W. Barden
1850-56—Joshua J. Guppy	1893-98—J. B. Taylor‡
1857-60—Guy C. Prentiss	1898 —W. S. Stroud

*Refused to qualify and James T. Lewis appointed.

†Resigned and Joshua J. Guppy appointed Sept. 29, 1849, to fill vacancy.

‡Died Sept. 25, 1898, and W. S. Stroud appointed to fill vacancy.

SHERIFFS.

1847-48—T. Clark Smith	1877-78—A. H. Russell
1849-50—Jacob Low	1879-80—Jonas Conklin
1851-52—Alexander McDonald	1881-82—J. H. Jurgerson
1853-54—Perry Lee	1883-84—D. G. Williams
1855-56—S. C. Higbie*	1885-86—J. W. Leffingwell
1857-58—Edward F. Lewis	1887-88—R. C. Falconer
1859-60—Benjamin Williams	1889-90—J. R. Nashold
1861-62—William W. Drake	1891-92—P. C. Irvine
1863-64—Nathan Hazen	1893-94—William H. Parry
1865-66—P. Pool	1895-96—Hugh Hall
1867-68—S. K. Vaughan	1897-98—Ole M. Bendixen
1869-70—O. H. Sorrenson	1899-00—Lewis Leith
1871-72—P. Pool	1901-02—J. C. MacKenzie
1873-74—William W. Drake	1903-04—E. P. Ashley
1875-76—J. O. Prescott	

*Election contested and office awarded to Geo. Robinson.

CLERKS OF CIRCUIT COURT.

1847-48—Henry Merrell (Clerk of District Court)	1867-71—C. A. Dibble
1848-50—Josiah Arnold	1872-78—S. M. Smith
1851-53—James Delaney, Jr.*	1879-82—S. S. Lockhart
1854 —A. W. Delaney	1882-86—J. H. Wells
1855-56—S. K. Vaughan†	1887-88—L. E. Greenleaf
1857-58—S. K. Vaughan	1889-90—Peter Williams
1859-60—A. Morehouse	1891-92—Frank M. Shaughnessy
1861-62—A. J. Turner	1893-96—A. S. Crouch
1863-65—H. M. Haskell‡	1897-00—Evan O. Jones
1866 —J. Chancellor (to fill vacancy)	1901— —C. H. Crothers

*Drowned May 31, 1853, and A. W. Delaney appointed to fill vacancy.

†Certificate given to A. W. Delaney, but office given to S. K. Vaughan on a contest.

‡Resigned and James Chancellor appointed to fill vacancy.

Resigned and S. M. Smith appointed to fill vacancy Dec. 6, 1871.

DISTRICT ATTORNEYS.

1847-48—James T. Lewis	1869-74—Emmons Taylor
1849-50—D. J. M. Loop	1875-80—J. H. Rogers
1851-52—Amasa G. Cook	1881-84—H. H. Curtis
1853-56—Luther S. Dixon	1885-86—Thomas Armstrong, Jr.
1857-60—Levi W. Barden	1887-88—J. S. Maxwell
1861-64—Israel Holmes	1889-94—W. S. Stroud
1865-66—Gerry W. Hazelton	1895-98—W. G. Coles*
1867-68—John T. Clark	1899 —H. E. Andrews

*Died and W. S. Stroud appointed to fill vacancy.

COUNTY CLERKS.†

1846 —James C. Carr	1863-68—Harvey H. Rust
1847 —Wayne B. Dyer (appointed in place of Nelson Swarthout)	1869-74—Ogden A. Southmayd
1848 —James C. Carr	1875-80—L. S. Rolleston
1849 —James B. Eaton	1881-86—Wm. B. Smith
1851-54—Alvin B. Alden	1887-90—Chas. C. Dow
1855-58—Thomas B. Haslam	1891-92—Frank B. Ernsperger
1859-62—Julius Austin	1893-96—Richard Pritchard
	1897-00—D. R. Marshall
	1901— —Robert J. Hughes

†Title of this office was first "Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners;" changed to the "Clerk of the Board of Supervisors" in 1848 and to "County Clerk" in 1871.

COUNTY TREASURERS.

1847 —James C. Carr	1869-72—Miles T. Alverson
1848-49—William J. Ensign*	1873-76—Oliver H. Sorrenson
1850-51—Stephen Brayton	1877-80—Henry Neef
1852-54—Harrison S. Haskell	1881-88—C. A. Colonius
1855 —Horace Rust†	1889-92—J. A. Johnson
1857-60—George Ege	1893-96—James R. Hastie
1861-66—Ll. Breese	1897-00—Byron Kinnear
1867-68—Lewis Low	1901— —Thomas V. Dunn

*Stephen Brayton was elected in 1849 but Mr. Ensign claimed to hold over. He filed his resignation Dec. 10th, 1850, and the board appointed Isaiah Robinson to fill the vacancy. The contest was decided in favor of Mr. Brayton.

REGISTER OF DEEDS.

1847 —Elbert Dickason	1875-76—Joseph Schaeffer
1849 —A. A. Brayton	1877-80—George Yule
1849-50—F. F. Farnham	1881-84—Z. J. D. Swift
1851-52—Josiah Arnold	1885-86—H. H. Tongen, Jr.†
1853-56—William Owen	1887-90—John W. Brown
1857-58—D. F. Newcomb	1890-94—John H. Dooley
1859-62—James Chancellor*	1895-98—Arthur A. Porter
1863-66—Abner H. Smead	1899-02—Ole Johnson
1867-74—Thomas Yule	1902— —C. H. Smith

†Mr. Tongen died in Feb. 1886, and Z. J. D. Swift appointed to fill vacancy.

*Office declared vacant in Nov. 1862, by reason of Mr. Chancellor's absence from state and A. H. Smead appointed to fill vacancy.

†Office contested and awarded to M. M. Ege.

CORONERS.

1847-50—Daniel E. Bassett	1871-76—Z. J. D. Swift
1851-54—Isaac Smith	1877-78—William Snoad
1855-56—Erastus Cook	1879-80—Z. J. D. Swift
1857-58—H. S. Haskell	1881-84—Geo. W. Marsh
1859-62—Geo. W. Marsh	1885-88—B. M. Allen
1863-64—Marcus Barden	1889-90—N. J. Currier
1865-66—Carl Schneider	1891-92—John Collins, Jr.
1867-68—O. H. Sorrenson	1893-01—B. M. Allen
1869-70—Charles Earley	1901 —W. G. Bunker

COUNTY SURVEYORS.

1857-48—A. Topliff	1870 —H. Meriton†
1849-50—N. P. Foster	1871-72—F. A. Brown
1851-52—A. Topliff	1873-74—G. M. Bartholomew
1853-54—John Thomas	1875-76—Henry Meriton
1855-56—George M. Bartholomew	1877-78—G. M. Bartholomew
1857-60—A. Topliff	1879-80—Henry Meriton
1861-62—Rensler Cronk*	1881-82—E. Corning
1863-66—A. Topliff	1883-90—C. E. Corning
1867-68—Jonathan Whitney	1891-92—E. Corning
1869-70—E. Corning.	1893 —C. E. Corning

*Killed in battle and Alfred Topliff appointed July 26, 1832, to fill vacancy.

†In place of E. Corning, resigned.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

(In 1862 the constitution was amended by making the terms of all county officers elected in even number years, two years.)

1832-67—David W. Rosenkrans	1880-81—Henry Neill
1868-69—Levi Bath	1882-88—Z. Merrill
1870-71—John J. Lloyd	1889-96—E. C. True
1872-75—L. Roy J. Burlingame†	1897-02—E. H. Burlingame†
1876-79—Kennedy Scott	1903 —S. C. Cushman

†Office declared vacant Aug. 22, 1874, and Kennedy Scott appointed to fill vacancy.

†Resigned Aug. 16, 1902 and L. J. Tucker appointed to fill vacancy.

BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

While the county was under the territorial form of government its affairs were administered by a board of county commissioners. The boards were constituted as follows:

- 1846—Solomon Leach, John Q. Adams, John Langdon*
 1847—R. F. Veeder, Nathan Griffin, J. D. McCall
 1848—John Q. Adams, J. J. Guppey, G. M. Bartholomew
 1849—James C. Carr, LaFayette Hill, John O. Jones

*Mr. Langdon failed to qualify.

CHAIRMEN OF COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1849—Alfred A. Brayton | 1872—A. J. Turner |
| 1850—Jeremiah Drake | 1873—“ |
| 1851—Joseph Kerr | 1874—“ |
| 1852—“ | 1875—“ |
| 1853—Jesse Van Ness | 1876—“ |
| 1854—F. C. Curtis | 1877—J. R. Decker |
| 1855—M. W. Patton | 1878—“ |
| 1856—F. C. Curtis | 1879—“ |
| 1857—Peter Van Ness | 1880—M. T. Alverson |
| 1858—J. C. Carr | 1881—“ |
| 1859—“ | 1882—Addison Eaton |
| 1860—W. N. Baker | 1883—“ |
| 1861—“ | 1884—J. R. Decker |
| *1862—Levi W. Barden, Charles L. Brown, Marcus Barden | 1885—“ |
| 1863—Levi W. Barden, Marcus Barden, Charles L. Brown | 1886—Lester Woodard |
| 1864—W. W. Drake, Marcus Barden, Geo. M. Bartholomew | 1887—J. H. Rogers |
| 1865—W. W. Drake, Marcus Barden, Geo. M. Bartholomew | 1888—“ |
| 1866—W. W. Drake, Marcus Barden, Edward F. Lewis | 1889—“ |
| 1867—Marcus Barden, W. W. Drake, Edward F. Lewis | 1890—James B. Taylor |
| 1868—Edward F. Lewis, Marcus Barden, W. W. Drake | 1891—R. N. McConochie |
| 1869—W. W. Drake, G. M. Bartholomew, John Meredith | 1892—“ |
| 1870—Geo. M. Bartholomew, John Meredith, Ira H. Ford | 1893—Mic Adams |
| 1870—A. J. Turner† | 1894—“ |
| 1871—W. M. Griswold | 1895—“ |
| | 1896—Salmon Brown |
| | 1897—“ |
| | 1898—H. J. Fisk |
| | 1899—“ |
| | 1900—John Scott |
| | 1901—“ |
| | 1902—“ |
| | 1903—W. C. Leitsch |

*The board of Supervisors was constituted from 1862 to 1870 of three members only.

†From June of that year.

THE FAMILY TREE OF

CHAPTER XVII.

WISCONSIN'S TERRITORIAL REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS.

The territory of which Wisconsin has at times formed a part, has been represented in congress by delegates as follows:

NORTHWEST TERRITORY.

The delegate took
his seat in

William Henry Harrison.....	1799
(Gen. Harrison was chosen a delegate by the Council and House of Representatives of Northwest Territory at Cincinnati, Sept. 16, 1799, and took his seat Dec. 7, of that year.)	
William McMillan (in place of William Henry Harrison, resigned).....	1800
Paul Fearing.....	1801
(Unseated in 1803, state of Ohio having been organized.)	

TERRITORY OF INDIANA.

[Embracing what is now Wisconsin.]

(Had no delegate until 1805. The delegates were elected by the Territorial Council.)

Benjamin Parke.....	1805
Benjamin Parke.....	1807
Jesse B. Thomas.....	1808
(Mr. Thomas was elected in place of Mr. Parke, resigned.)	

TERRITORY OF ILLINOIS.

(Embracing what is now Wisconsin.)

Shadrach Bond.....	1812
Benjamin Stephenson (in place of Mr. Bond, resigned)	1814
Nathaniel Pope.....	1816

TERRITORY OF MICHIGAN.

(Embracing what is now Wisconsin)

William W. Woodbridge.....	1819
Solomon Sibley.....	1820
(In place of Mr. Woodbridge, resigned.)	
The vote cast at the election Sept. 21, 1820, was:	
Solomon Sibley.....	213
Augustus B. Woodward.....	206
James McCloskey.....	89
John B. Williams.....	7
Gabriel Richard.....	1823

The vote cast Sept. 4, 1823, the first election held on Wisconsin soil resulted as follows:

Gabriel Richard.....	444
John Biddle	421
Austin E. Wing	335
James McCloskey.....	164
A. G. Whitting.....	165
John R. Williams.....	51

[It may be worthy of note to remark that Father Gabriel Richard was the first and only Catholic priest ever elected to Congress in the United States.]

Austin E. Wing	1825
John Biddle.....	1829
Austin E. Wing	1831
Lucius Lyon.....	1833
George W. Jones.....	1835

TERRITORY OF WISCONSIN.

George W. Jones.....	1836
The vote for delegate was:	
George W. Jones	3522
Moses Meeker	696—4218
James Duane Doty.....	1838
The vote for delegate was:	
James D. Doty.....	1758
George W. Jones.....	1174
Thomas P. Burnett.....	920—3852
James Duane Doty.....	1840
The vote for delegate was:	
James D. Doty.....	2125
Byron Kilbourn	1158
Thomas P. Burnett.....	861—4144
Henry Dodge.....	1842
The vote for delegate was:	
Henry Dodge.....	3435
Jonathan E. Arnold.....	2528—6363
Henry Dodge.....	1843
The vote for delegate was:	
Henry Dodge	4685
George W. Hickcox.....	3184
Jonathan Spooner..	153
Scattering.....	25—8047
Morgan L. Martin.....	1845

The vote for delegate was:	
Morgan L. Martin.....	6803
James Collins.....	5787
E. D. Holton.....	790
Charles Durkee.....	13—13,393
John H. Tweedy.....	1847
The vote for delegate was:	
John H. Tweedy.....	10,670
Moses M. Strong.....	9,648
Charles Durhee.....	973
Scattering.....	40—21,331

On the 29th of May, 1848, Wisconsin was admitted into the Union as a state and the duties of the Territorial delegate thereupon ceased.

CHAPTER XVIII.

POSTOFFICES AT PORTAGE.

The first postoffice in Columbia County was established at the Winnebago Portage, Michigan Ter., in 1831, the office being in the Indian Agency house near the Fort, (now the farm house of E. S. Baker) and the postmaster was John Kinzie. Its name was "Fort Winnebago." The office by that name was temporarily discontinued Feb. 24, 1853, but was reestablished for the convenience of the town of Fort Winnebago in 1857, and was permanently discontinued Oct. 22, 1861, the Port Hope P. O. supplying the inhabitants of the north part of the town, east of the Fox, with postoffice accommodations.

On April 5, 1850, a postoffice was established near the canal bridge, called "Wauonah" but was changed to Portage City a little later in the same year, and was changed once more to "Portage" May 28, 1875.

The record of persons appointed as postmasters here with the dates of their appointment, is as follows:

FORT WINNEBAGO, MICHIGAN TERRITORY.

John Kinzie..... Feb. 10, 1831

FORT WINNEBAGO, BROWN CO., MICHIGAN TERRITORY.

Henry Merrell..... Sept. 4, 1834

FORT WINNEBAGO, PORTAGE CO., WISCONSIN TERRITORY.

Hugh McFarlane..... June 18, 1845

FORT WINNEBAGO, COLUMBIA CO., WISCONSIN.

Orrin Kincaid	Nov. 13, 1846
Henry Carpenter	March 1847
Gardner T. Getty	Jan. 31, 1850
M. R. Keegan	Aug. 12, 1852
James M. Forrest	April 8, 1847
Michael R. Keegan	Sept. 4, 1857

WAUONAH.

Charles H. Moore	April 5, 1850
------------------------	---------------

PORTAGE CITY*

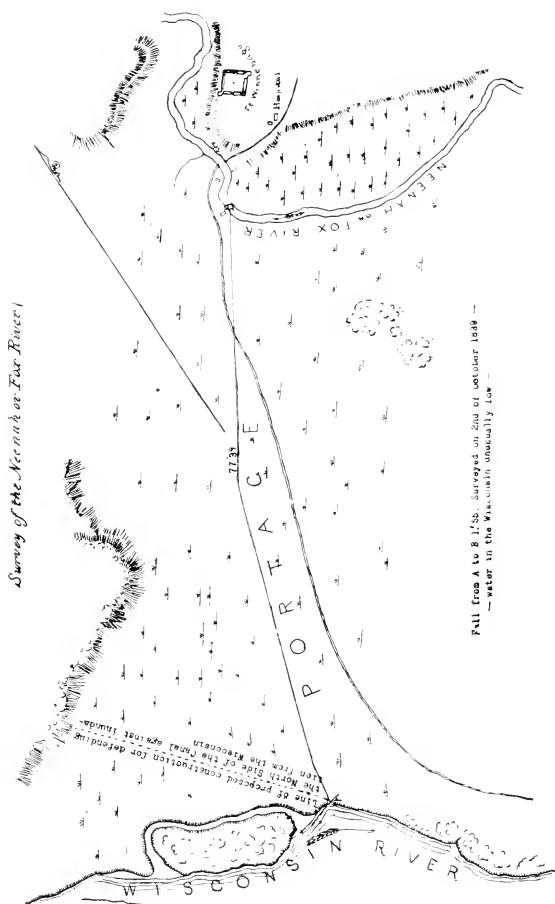
Thaddeus Dean	July 16, 1860
Lemuel Berry	Feb. 9, 1852
James Delaney, Sr	Feb. 24, 1853
Jerome B. Fargo	Aug. 23, 1855
John A. Brown	Dec. 15, 1856
Chancey C. Britt	March 1, 1852
Stillman E. Dana	April 8, 1861
Charles P. Austin	July 9, 1870
Harrison S. Haskell	Nov. 27, 1874
Samuel S. Braunan	March 3, 1879
Charles C. Dow	April 13, 1882
James E. Jones	Aug. 16, 1886
Geo. W. Morrison	June 11, 1889
Moses J. Downey	April 5, 1894
Chris. F. Mohr	March 31, 1898
Arthur A. Porter	

*Changed to "Portage" May 28, 1875.

CHAPTER XIX.

THE FOX AND WISCONSIN PORTAGE.

The locality now known as "Portage," came into prominence more than a century before a single person, other than the aborigines, became an inhabitant of it. Who the earliest white persons were, who may have invaded it, is a matter of conjecture, and is discussed elsewhere. Whoever they may have been is of minor importance, for they imparted to others no knowledge of the geographical features of this region and the world was none the wiser by reason of their coming. But when Pere Jacques Marquette and Sieur Louis Joliet banked their canoes on the Fox and, "making the portage," launched their barks on the Wis-



The Fox-Wisconsin Portage, 1839.

Reduced facsimile of map made by Capt. T. J. Cram, T. E., January, 1840. The line from A to B represents the route of a proposed government canal, but the canal subsequently dug, is not on the line shown.

consin, about the 16th of June, O. S., 1673, the Wau-wau-ah-na, (corrupted into Wauona, signifying "the carry," or, translated literally, "carry on the shoulder,") or the "portage," found a place on the maps and from its geographical position assumed importance. Here was discovered a natural route connecting the great lakes with the waters coursing the vast territory to the south and west, a veritable terra incognita, concerning which so much mystery existed and of which, practically, nothing was known. Other explorers followed where Marquette and Joliet had blazed the way. The most famous of these, perhaps, was Robert Cavalier du LaSalle, to whom, in 1674, Sieur Joliet had communicated the result of the expedition he had made with Marquette the previous year. The steps he took to utilize the information he had gained must be learned from the works of the historians, for they fill a very large space in the history of the Mississippi valley. LaSalle's expedition to it was made in 1862 by the Fox-Wisconsin route. The divide between the rivers is referred to by him as a "point where the canoes are portaged across an oak grove and a flooded meadow."*

LaSalle was accompanied on this expedition by the famous characters Louis Hennepin and Henry de Tonty—the man known among the Indians as "Iron Hand," he having lost his hand, which was replaced by an iron one. Father Hennepin having been captured by the Indians and finally released, returned by the Fox-Wisconsin route and was the first person, of whom we have definite knowledge, to ascend the Wisconsin and cross the portage. So, doubtless, on the gentle slope near the foot of Mac street, La Salle, Hennepin, Tonti and Menard also had found shelter in their tents in an "oak grove."

He who would know more of these famous men, and of Le Sueur, Perrot, du L'hut (Duluth) and, later, of Jonathan Carver, in 1766, who have pitched their tents at the portage in its oak groves or on its flooded meadows, and whose expeditions fill so large a space in the history of the Mississippi valley, must find it in the volumes of

*A resident of Portage at this time may wonder where LaSalle found the "oak grove" alluded to. In the early times, indeed down to about 1850, the "portage" forked about midway between the rivers when it was a "flooded meadow," one route turned northwest and ascended the high land at Ketchum's Point, the trail through the "oak groves" reaching the Wisconsin river near the foot of Mac street. LaSalle evidently made his trip when the shortest, and usually traveled trail to the Wisconsin was flooded, or in a very bad condition.

Bancroft, Parkman, Fiske, Winsor, Shea and our own Thwaites and Legler and other eminent writers who have illumed their pages with their abundant knowledge and gifted pens. In them all the portage, so difficult of passage at times, found frequent mention. Were these early voyageurs, missionaries, explorers and traders to pass over it to-day they would have no occasion to watch their footsteps lest they should be stung with the fangs of the serpens-a sonnettes, and they would need no leggings to enable them to make a successful passage of the quagmires which at times impeded the way. La Salle's "flooded meadows" have disappeared (except on occasions) under the influence of the embankments which have been erected along the Wisconsin river as barriers to its overflow, and the "oak groves" have mostly given place to beautiful homes; and avenues shaded with elms, maples, lindens, etc., mark the Wauonah where the savages toted on their shoulders the barks of Marquette and Joliet in 1673.

· CHAPTER XX.

OLD FORT WINNEBAGO.

[This chapter is, principally, a reprint of a paper read by me before a local club several years ago and which was incorporated in Vol. XIV of the Wisconsin Historical Collections. A. J. T.]

To the present generation old Fort Winnebago (at Portage) is a tradition. To the older citizens of our state, who recall its whitened walls as they appeared above the stockade that inclosed them, and who retain a vivid recollection of many of its appointments and environments, it is a reminiscence; very few there are, now living, who dwelt at the fort during its occupancy, and who had an acquaintance with those of its garrison who subsequently became illustrious in military and civil life. Of such, some passed their earlier years at the fort in comparative obscurity, awaiting an opportunity to prove their mettle on the sanguinary field of conflict, and who afterward left their impress on the pages of history. Some of their names are still spoken; others who were here, of equal merit, perhaps, are rarely or never mentioned, for opportunity came not to them. Much that occurred at the fort has been recorded in various public documents, volumes and papers, but nowhere, I believe,

has it all been arranged in a convenient form. So the old fort may be said to have had a history, but no historian. It is not my purpose to attempt an exhaustive history of the fort; but rather to collate what has already been written, but which is so scattered as to involve great research on the part of the student who would know as much as possible of its origin and history. I have incorporated in my account some things not found in any published matter, which I have heard related from the lips of those who were there as early as 1830, and who knew its innermost history. Some of it is of a minor character, but may possess sufficient local interest to warrant the recital.

Although the existence of the lead mines in southwestern Wisconsin had been known for many years, it was not until about 1822 that they attracted general attention, when adventurers began coming in and commenced mining operations. The Indian title to the lands in that section had not yet been extinguished, or was in dispute and, in any event the Indians were authorized to remain upon them "as long as the lands which are now ceded to the United States remain their property." The lands had not been brought into market and were not even surveyed. Nevertheless, "permits" to enter upon the lands claimed by the Indians were issued by certain government officials. This naturally irritated the savages whose lands had been invaded. The conduct of the adventurers toward the aborigines was frequently coarse and brutal, and disturbances were the inevitable result. In them we find the inciting causes that led to the establishment of old Fort Winnebago—so called because the lead region, as well as the Fox-Wisconsin portage, was in the territory of the Winnebagoes.

The feeling of insecurity that prevailed moved General Macomb to recommend the establishment of a military post at the portage between the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, which was communicated to the secretary of war in the following language:

From the restlessness evinced by the Winnebagoes and other tribes in the Northwest, partly arising from intrusion upon land in the mineral district claimed by them to be within their boundaries, by white people in search of lead, and in consequence of a belief entertained by these tribes, from the smallness of the military force in their neighborhood, in comparison with what it had been several years before, the government might not find it convenient to increase it, and they might therefore with impunity resume the depredations which had led to the establishment of those posts in the first instance: therefore it was found necessary to establish a new post at the portage

between the Fox and Ouisconsin rivers and reoccupy Chicago. * * * In order to effect these changes, the first regiment furnished the garrison of the post at the portage of the Ouisconsin and Fox rivers, while it continued to occupy fort Crawford, at the Prairie du Chien, and fort Snelling, at the junction of the St. Peters with the Mississippi. The second regiment, which heretofore occupied the posts at the Sault de St. Marie, Green Bay and Mackinac, moved down to occupy the posts of forts Gratiot and Niagara, the residue of the regiment being at Houlton Plantations. The fifth regiment, which was stationed with the sixth at the school of instruction at Jefferson barracks, relieved the second at Green Bay, Sault de St. Marie, and Mackinac, besides furnishing two companies for the garrison at Chicago. The march of the fifth regiment by the way of the Ouisconsin and Fox rivers must have produced an imposing effect on the tribes of Indians through whose country it passed; an effect which was contemplated by the movement.

* * *

Executing the order of the secretary of war, the adjutant general of the United States, under the direction of General Macomb, issued "Orders 44," under date of August 19, 1828, which directed:

The three companies of the first regiment of infantry, now at Fort Howard, to proceed forthwith under the command of Major Twiggs of that regiment to the portage between the Fox and Ouisconsin rivers, there to select a position and establish a military post.

By command of Maj.-Gen. Macomb.

R. JONES, Adjt. Gen.

An additional reason for the establishment of the fort is given in the History of Columbia County, not referred to in the official reports, which may contain many grains of truth:

There was necessity for some means of protection to the fur trade from Winnebago exactions, * * * the general government at the solicitation of John Jacob Astor, who was then at the head of the American Fur company, and upon whose goods the Indians levied exorbitant tolls, authorized the erection of a post at the portage.*

* * *

Sept. 7 following, Maj. David E. Twiggs reported his arrival at the fort which was to be established, as follows: †

FORT WINNEBAGO, September 7, 1828.

SIR: I have the honor of reporting my arrival at the fort with my command this day. I have selected a position for the fort on the right bank of the Fox river, immediately opposite the portage. The Indians, I am told, are very much dissatisfied with the location of troops here; as yet I have not been

*John Jacob Astor had a trading post at the portage which was under the care of Pierre Pauquette. A person who was here at the time informed a correspondent living in the east that "a party named Astor had influenced the government to establish a military post here to protect his trading post from the Indians."

†Morgan L. Martin, in Wis. Hist. Colls., xi, p. 399, speaks of having met Maj. Twiggs at Butte des Morts, with three companies of soldiers in boats on their way to establish the garrison at Fort Winnebago. Jefferson Davis, just graduated at West Point, was one of his lieutenants.

able to see any of the chiefs, consequently cannot say with any certainty what their dispositions are.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS, Major First Infantry.

The site selected for the fort was occupied by Francis le Roy, but satisfactory terms were made with him for its occupancy by the government. Macomb's request to have the land selected for the fort withdrawn from market, was made January 10, 1835, and was approved by President Jackson, February 9, of the same year.

Maj. Twiggs reported December 29, 1828, what had been done in the matter of temporary buildings, for the shelter of his command, prior to the construction of the fort buildings proper; the report is here given in full:

After completing the temporary buildings I commenced procuring materials for the quarters, etc., and soon will have square timber enough for two block-houses. I have (and will continue through the winter) six saws, sawing flooring, weather boarding and other lumber. We have about twenty thousand feet of all kinds, and hope by spring to have sufficient to complete the buildings. The sash, blinds, etc., will be ready before the end of February. There will be wanting three or four yoke of oxen, and as many carts, the shingles and lime can better be furnished by contract: all the other materials the command can procure: all the buildings had better be frame—logs cannot be had, and if they could, frame is cheaper and much better; all the timber has to be brought from nine to eleven miles, but if the carts and oxen are furnished, and the lime and shingles got by contract, I can with ease complete the garrison by next November. I would be pleased to hear from you on the subject as soon as convenient. I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

D. E. TWIGGS, Major First Infantry.

To Gen. A. Atkinson Commanding.

The temporary barracks were constructed of logs obtained principally on what is known, locally, as Pine Island, about six miles west of Portage; they were probably a little east of the fort subsequently erected, and resembled the cabins which are always put up in logging camps for the use of the men; but nothing more definite concerning them is now obtainable. It is presumed that the instructions that Twiggs desired were not long delayed, for we know that active operations for the erection of the fort were soon in progress.

Lieut. Jefferson Davis, later the chieftain of the Confederacy, has recorded the fact that he went up the Yellow River, a tributary of the Wisconsin, some fifty miles distant, and got out the pine logs to be used in the construction of the fort, which were rafted down in the spring and hauled across the portage with teams and were wrought into proper form with whipsaw, broadax, and adz. Another party was detailed

to get out the needed stone, of which a great quantity was used, at Stone Quarry Hill, the place where the most of the stone used in Portage for building purposes, has ever since been obtained.* The bricks were manufactured near the present Wisconsin river bridge, at what we know as "Armstrong's brickyard." Lime was burned by another detail at or near Pauquette's farm on the Bellefountain, one of the best and most widely known farms in the state.†

An enormous well was sunk in the very center of the square, around which the usual fort buildings were constructed, and it has continued from its never-failing fountain to contribute to the comfort of the thirsty pilgrim until the present day; but a modern windmill now does the duty that was formerly so tedious and irksome. So all hands were busy. Officers, who in after years became distinguished in the war with Mexico, the Florida and other Indian wars, and the great conflict involving the perpetuity of our Union, planned and wrought with the common soldier in bringing into form the fort and the necessary accompanying buildings. Stables, hospitals, bakeries, blacksmith shops, commissary buildings, ice cellars (which were filled from Swan Lake), sutlers' stores, magazines, laundries, bathhouses, etc., rapidly sprang into existence. Gardens were also cleared, and old soldiers have recorded the fact that they could not be excelled in the matter of the quantity and quality of the vegetables produced. A theater was erected, and doubtless professional tragedians would have hidden their faces in confusion

* In 1880 I addressed Gen. Davis in the hope that he might have in his collections a photograph of Fort Winnebago and received the following in reply:
BEAUVOIR, Harrison Co., Miss., May 5, 1880.

A. J. Turner, Esq.—*Dear Sir:* I do not think I ever received a copy of the engraving of Fort Winnebago. Certainly, I have none now. The place had such interest to me that if I had ever received a picture of it, I could not fail to remember the fact. When I first served there, we had only log huts connected by a stockade, all being designed for defense against the Indians at that time more or less hostile. As the Indians became more friendly, the stockade work was substituted by conveniently constructed barracks with block houses at the diagonal angles, and the grounds around it so improved, that when I left it to participate in the Black Hawk campaign, it had become a very handsome post.

I hope you will be able to obtain and preserve the picture of it in its improved condition, and it would add to its historical interest if you could obtain a sketch of the original stockade work.

Respectfully yours,

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

†Jefferson Davis—a Memoir, by his wife (N. Y., 1890), vol. i, pp. 80-82. See also, Wis. Hist. Colls., viii, p. 310.

if they could have witnessed their own best efforts put to shame by the young officers who took the leading parts.

While all this was going on regular military duty was not neglected, and drills and parades were indulged in of course; the stars and stripes were regularly given to the breeze at the roll of the drum at guard mounting, and lowered with the same accompaniment at retreat; morning and evening guns were sounded, the reveille called the soldiers to duty in the gray light of the morning, and "taps" sent them to retirement in the blue light of the evening.



LIEUT. JEFFERSON DAVIS.

In the regular course of military movements, some of the companies first doing duty here were transferred to different posts, and their places were taken by others; and so it happened that many whose names were enrolled on the scroll of fame in after years, were initiated into the science of war at Fort Winnebago. Perhaps the most prominent of them all was Lieutenant Jefferson Davis, then subaltern of Capt.

William S. Harney. To his honor, be it said, his services at Fort Winnebago were highly creditable. I have heard it remarked by those who knew him here, that he had no liking for the amusements to which officers, as well as private soldiers, resort to relieve the tedium of camp life; but that he was ever engaged, when not in active service, in some commendable occupation. His services in the lumber camps on the Yellow River, and his successful mission in bringing down fleets of lumber through the Del's of the Wisconsin, attest to his faithfulness as a soldier.



LIEUT. HORATIO PHILLIPS VAN CLEVE.

Lieut. Horatio Phillips Van Cleve went to the front early in the War of Rebellion as colonel of the Second Minnesota, and achieved distinction, retiring with the rank of major-general; he was one of the finest graduates of the old fort. At the battle of Stone River, Lt. Van Cleve was in command of a subdivision of the Army of the Ohio, and was severely wounded. Greeley's "History of the American Conflict" erroneously records him as killed. He recovered from his wounds, and served with distinction until the close of the war. Lt. Van Cleve married Charlotte Ouisconsin Clark, daughter of Maj. Nathan Clark, at Fort Winnebago in 1836, this lady having been born at Fort Crawford

(Prairie du Chien) in 1819 and was the first woman of pure Saxon blood born within the present limits of Wisconsin. Her father, the major, died at Fort Winnebago and was buried in the old military cemetery, but his remains were subsequently removed to Cincinnati.

Next to Lieutenant Davis, should be mentioned Maj. David E. Twiggs, of the First Infantry, under whose immediate superintendence the fort was constructed, as already stated. Subsequently, Twiggs distinguished himself at the battle of Monterey, in the Mexican War. He was dismissed from the federal service in February, 1861, for surrendering the United States stores in Texas, before that state had seceded, and was a Confederate general for a time. One of Twiggs' lieutenants here, was Captain W. S. Harney, who was brevetted a colonel for meritorious conduct in several engagements with hostile Indians in Florida, and became famous as an Indian fighter; he was also brevetted a brigadier-general for long and faithful service.

Capt. E. V. Sumner, who became so renowned for his famous cavalry charge at the battle of Cerro Gordo, in which he was wounded, and who subsequently distinguished himself at Contreras, Churubusco, and Molino del Rey, in Mexico, was also here. Captain Sumner led an expedition against the Cheyenne Indians in Kansas; he commanded the left wing of the federal army at the siege of Yorktown; was in all of the battles of the Peninsula, and was twice wounded; was again wounded at Antietam, and at the battle of Fredericksburg commanded the right grand division of the army. He was one of old Fort Winnebago's brightest jewels.

Lieut. Randolph B. Marcy was on duty at Fort Winnebago in 1837-40; captain in 1846, and in active service during the Mexican War, later being on frontier duty for many years. During the Civil War, he was chief-of-staff under his son-in-law, Gen. George B. McClellan, in 1861-62, attaining the rank of inspector-general and brevet brigadier-general. General Marcy was the author of several volumes descriptive of frontier life and service.

Lieut. Nathan B. Rossell joined (1839) the Fifth Infantry at Fort Winnebago, his first post. He was with his regiment in the Mexican War, being severely wounded at Molino del Rey. He was brevetted for distinguished services and was presented by his native state, New Jersey, with a gold sword. He was in command at Fort Albuquerque,



Lieut. R. B. Marcy



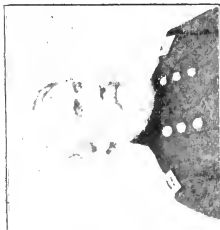
Capt. W. S. Harney



Lieut. N. B. Rossell



Maj. David E. Twiggs
OFFICERS AT FORT WINNEBAGO
 [With their Rank while at the Fort]



Capt. E. V. Sumner



Lieut. J. J. Abercrombie

N Mex., when the Civil War broke out. He was ordered into active service, being killed while in command of the Third Infantry, at Gaines' Mill.

Lieut. Ephraim Kirby Smith,* who was killed in the battle of Molino del Rey, Mexico, was also at the Fox-Wisconsin portage even prior to the establishment of the fort. A stray manuscript leaf from some of the army records left at the fort when it was evacuated, and now in possession of one of the citizens of Portage, contains the proceedings of a court-martial whereat the brevet lieutenant was tried for insubordination, being charged with having "refused to take orders from any d—d militia captain."

Dr. Lyman Foot, eminent as a surgeon and physician,—who spent much of his early manhood at various military posts on the frontier, and who was greatly esteemed for his social qualities and professional attainments,—was long remembered by early citizens of Portage. Lieut. John Pegram, who became a distinguished confederate general, and lost his life near Petersburg in 1867; Lieut. John T. Collinsworth, who resigned in 1836 and became inspector-general of the republic of Texas, dying in 1837 at the age of 28; Col. James S. McIntosh, who was mortally wounded at the battle of Molino del Rey, in Mexico, in 1846; Lieut. John J. Abercrombie, who commanded the union forces at the battle of Falling Waters, one of the first engagements in the late war; Lieut. Alexander S. Hooe, who greatly distinguished himself at the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, in the latter of which he lost an arm; Lieut. Pinkney Lugenbeel, who was brevetted for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battles of Contreras, Churubusco and Chapultepec in the Mexican War, and served in the army of the Potomac; Lieuts. Ferdinand S. Mumford and Samuel B. Hayman, who acquired honorable distinction in the Civil War, and undoubtedly others of merit whose names do not occur to me, were here.

Little did these young officers, as they gathered around the festive board and sang:

*Ephraim Kirby Smith must not be confounded with Edmund Kirby Smith—these men were cousins, I think, and both were appointed from the state of Florida, and both were lieutenants in the 5th infantry, but E. Kirby Smith, the dashing confederate general, did not join the 5th Regt. while it was stationed at Fort Winnebago. The similarity of names has led some persons into error in writing of them, myself among the number.



Mrs. R. B. Marcy



Mrs. Geo. B. McClellan
Daughter of Mrs. Marcy



Mrs. Charlotte Ouisconsin Van Cleve



Mrs. N. B. Rossell
Sister of Mrs. Marcy



Mrs. M. C. Low

In the army there's sobriety,
Promotion's very slow,
We'll sigh o'er reminiscences of Benny Havens, O!
Old Benny Havens, O! Old Benny Havens, O!
We'll sigh o'er reminiscences of Benny Havens, O!*

do more than dream of the promotion which was soon to be theirs; but the war with Mexico was near at hand, and promotion came to them very rapidly.



CAPT. GIDEON LOW.

Among the earliest to arrive at the fort was Capt. Gideon Low, who came here with his command from Green Bay in 1831. In the Black Hawk War, Capt. Low was ordered to Fort Atkinson; and after the danger was over there he returned to Fort Winnebago, where he remained on duty until 1840, when he resigned. Prior to his resignation he built the Franklin House, in 1838, which became so famous as a hostelry in the early days of Portage. Capt.

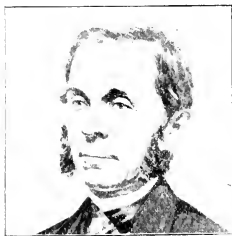
Low died at the agency in 1850, and was buried in the cemetery at the fort; but subsequently his remains were removed to Silver Lake cemetery.

Of those who were at the Fox-Wisconsin portage, in early times, years before the fort had an existence, was Pierre Pauquette. He was born at St. Louis in 1796, and married Therese Crelic, daughter of the noted Joseph Crelic. His early manhood was spent among the Indians in the Far West, in the fur trade. Subsequently he became the agent of the American Fur Company at the portage, and was the agent of Joseph Rolette in the transportation business. He was slain by an Indian named Mauzamoneka (or Iron Walker), in 1836, with whom he had had some trouble, at a spot near the present site of the Catholic church in Portage. He was one of the best known men in the West and his tragic death produced a sensation equal to what might be ex-

* "Benny Havens" was an army melody, very popular at our frontier posts sixty years ago. See "Grant's Appointment to West Point," McClure's Magazine, January, 1897. "Benny Havens" was one of the institutions at West Point—a little tavern and bar on the riverbank, just outside of the reservation. It was considered very wild to slip down to Benny's and smoke a cigar and drink a glass of gin.

perienced if the most distinguished man in Wisconsin today should be assassinated; for he was a famous man in many ways, and was held in the highest esteem by both whites and Indians. For years after his death he was the most talked about man in this section. At the time of his death he was living across the river, where Judge Barden now resides, and some of the latter's farm buildings were erected by Pauquette. His daughter, Therese, who is still living, and a resident of Caledonia, speaks of frequent visits to her father's place by Lieutenant Jefferson Davis and Captain Gideon Low.

Another noted character hereabouts was Jean Baptiste Du Bay, whose trading post was on the hill opposite the fort and just east of the Indian Agency, having succeeded to the interest of Pauquette, after the latter's death. He killed William S. Reynolds on the premises, in 1857, over a land title dispute, an event that attracted great interest at the and which ever after clouded an otherwise honorable career.



HENRY MERRELL.

Henry Merrell was at the fort also; he was a sutler there in 1834, and afterwards became the agent of the American Fur Company, filling many positions of honor and trust; he was the first senator from this district when the State was organized, and his descendants have converted the site of the old military fort from its warlike appearance to the more peaceful one of a well appointed farm.

So also Satterlee Clark, who was appointed a sutler by President Jackson in 1830; but being a minor he was unable to take charge of the position in his own name, and it was farmed out to Oliver Newbury of Detroit, Clark becoming his clerk. He devoted the most of his time, however, to the Indian trade. Clark was for many years a senator from Dodge Co. With all of his peculiarities, and often extravagant expressions of speech, he was a most companionable man, and a true courtier to ladies who admired him. Clark was married at the old Indian Agency house on the hill just opposite the fort, which is still standing, to a daughter of Mr. Jones, the sutler. And here it should be stated that this house was built for John H. Kinzie, the sub Indian agent, who was

a son of John Kinzie, whose name occupies so prominent a page in the early history of Chicago, he being a post-trader at Fort Dearborn at the time of the massacre of the garrison by the Indians in 1812.* John H. Kinzie died on a Fort Wayne railway train January 28, 1865, of heart disease.

After describing the approach to the fort in a canoe, by the tortuous windings of the Fox, Mrs. Kinzie writes:

"Maj. and Mrs. Twiggs and a few of the younger officers (for nearly all the older ones were absent), with our brother Robert, or as he is called throughout all the Indian tribes, 'Bob,' gave us a cordial welcome—how cordial those alone can know who have come, like us, to a remote isolated home in the wilderness. The major insisted on our taking possession at once of vacant quarters in the fort instead of the agency, as had been proposed. No, we must be under the same roof with them. Mrs. Twiggs had been without a companion of her own sex for more than four months, and would certainly not hear of a separation now. But we must be their guests until the arrival of the boats containing our furniture, which, under the care of our old acquaintance, Hamilton Arndt, was making its way slowly up from Green Bay. A dinner had been prepared for us. This is one of the advantages of the zig-zag approach by the Fox river—traders never take their friends by surprise; and when the whole circle sat down to the hospitable board we were indeed a merry company. After dinner, Mrs. Twiggs showed me the quarters assigned to us on the opposite side of the hall. They consisted of two large rooms on each side of the building. On the ground floor the front room was vacant. The one in the rear was to be the sleeping apartment, as was evident from a huge, unwieldy bedstead of proportions amply sufficient to have accommodated Og, the King of Bashan, with Mrs. Og and the children into the bargain. This evidently had been built under the immediate superintendence of one of our young lieutenants (Jefferson Davis) and it was plain to be seen that both he, and the soldiers who fabricated it, had exhausted all their architectural skill. The timber of which it was composed had been grooved and

*Mrs. John H. Kinzie was the author of that entertaining volume of reminiscences of life at frontier posts, "Wau-Bun." From this book (ch. viii), her account of her arrival at Fort Winnebago in 1830, in company with her husband, who was to have charge of the Indian Agency, is transcribed. Mrs. Twiggs was the only woman who had preceded her to the fort.

carved, the pillars that supported the front swelled in and out in a most fanciful manner; the doors were not only paneled, but radiated in a way to excite the admiration of all unsophisticated eyes. A similar piece of workmanship had been erected in each set of quarters, to supply the deficiency of closets, an inconvenience which had never occurred, until too late, to the bachelors who planned them. The three apartments of which each structure was composed were unquestionably designed for clothes-press, storeroom, and china closet; such at least were the uses to which Mrs. Twiggs had appropriated the one assigned to her. There was this slight difficulty, that in the latter the shelves were too close to admit setting in even a gravyboat, but they made up in number what was wanting in space. We christened the whole affair in honor of its projector, a 'Davis,' thus placing the first laurel on the brow of one who was afterward to signalize himself in cabinet making of quite a different character." It will be remembered that Davis himself was a member of President Pierce's cabinet, and that he constructed an entire cabinet on his own account as president of the Confederate States.



MRS. JOHN H. KINZIE

When the Kinzies arrived at the fort, they found the Winnebagoes assembled in anticipation of the arrival of Shawneeawkee (the Indian name for the agent), who was to pay them their annuities. "The woods were now brilliant with tints of autumn," Mrs. Kinzie wrote, "and the scene around us was further enlivened by groups of Indians in all directions, and their lodges which were scattered here and there in the vicinity of the Agency buildings. On the low grounds might be seen

the white tents of the traders, already prepared to send out winter supplies to the Indians, in exchange for the annuity money they were about to receive.

"Preparatory to this event, the great chief of the Winnebago nation, 'Four Legs' (Hootschope), whose village was on Doty's Island at the foot of Lake Winnebago, had thought proper to take a little carouse, as is too apt to be the custom when the savages come into the neighborhood of a sutler's establishment. In the present instance, the facil-

ities for a season of intoxication had been augmented by the presence on the ground of some traders, too regardless of the very stringent laws prohibiting the sale of liquor to Indians.

"Poor Four Legs could not stand this full tide of prosperity. Unchecked by the presence of his father, the agent, he carried his indulgence to such excess that he fell a victim in the course of a few days. His funeral had been celebrated with unusual pomp the day before our arrival, and great was my disappointment at finding myself too late to witness all the ceremonies.

"His body, according to their custom, having been wrapped in a blanket and placed in a rude coffin along with his guns, tomahawk, pipes, and a quantity of tobacco, had been carried to the most elevated point of the hill opposite the fort, followed by an immense procession of his people, whooping, beating their drums, howling and making altogether what is emphatically termed a 'pow-wow.'

"After the interment of his body a stake was planted at his head, on which was painted in vermillion a series of hieroglyphics, descriptive of the great deeds and events of his life. The whole was then surrounded with pickets of the trunks of the tamarack trees, and thither the friends would come for many successive days to renew the expression of their grief, and to throw over the grave tobacco and other offerings to the Great Spirit."

We might imagine that the bones of the great Four Legs repose there still, a little in the rear of the Agency building; but they probably do not, for the graves of the Indians were usually very shallow, and the tiller of the soil, as he "drove his team a-field," would often turn their bones to the surface to be whitened in the sun; and it became in after years quite fashionable for white men to desecrate the Indian graves in pursuit of relics. Frequently no other covering than a roof of slabs, in the form of a was given to them.

Continuing her narrative of events occurring at the fort immediately after their arrival, Mrs. Kinzie relates the "calls" they received from the principal chiefs, who had put on their best blankets, gaudiest feathers, and paint to receive their new "mother."

There was Nawkaw or Carrymaunee (The Walking Turtle), who, the principal chief of his tribe, was beside Tecumseh when he fell at the battle of the Thames, and old "Daykauray,"—Schachipkaka (White

War Eagle), as Mrs. Kinzie spells it, but which is always written, locally, "Dekorra."

Mrs. Kinzie spoke of her caller as "the most noble, dignified and venerable of his own, or indeed of any tribe. His fine Roman countenance, rendered still more striking by his bald head, with one solitary tuft of long silvery hair neatly tied and falling back on his shoulders; his perfectly neat, appropriate dress, almost without ornament, and his courteous demeanor, never laid aside under any circumstances, all combining to give him the highest place in the consideration of all who knew him. It will hereafter be seen," Mrs. Kinzie adds, "that his traits of character were not less grand and striking than were his personal appearance and deportment."

Mrs. Kinzie probably had in mind, when she penned the following paragraph, the time when the Indians were reduced to dire extremities for food. The game had been driven off by the troops and war parties the preceding summer, and soup made of slippery elm and stewed acorns was the only food that many of them had subsisted upon for weeks. Their condition was wretched in the extreme, and could only be relieved by the arrival of the stores that were expected to come up Fox River by the boat. While this condition of affairs existed, Mrs. Kinzie wrote: "The noble old De-kau ry came one day from the Barribault (Baraboo) to apprise us of the state in his village. More than forty of his people he said had now been for many days without food, save bark and roots. My husband accompanied him to the commanding officer to tell his story and ascertain if any amount of food could be obtained from that quarter. The result was the promise of a small allowance of flour, sufficient to alleviate the cravings of his own family. When this was explained to the chief, he turned away. 'No,' he said, 'if my people could not be relieved, I and my family will starve with them.' And he refused, for those nearest and dearest to him, the proffered succor, until all could share alike. When at last the boat arrived, the scene of exultation that followed was a memorable one. The bulky 'Wild Cat,' now greatly reduced in flesh from his long fasting, seized the aristocratic 'Washington Woman,' Madam Thunder, and huggd and danced with her in exuberance of their joy."

The soldiers apart from their garrison duties, were detailed to road-

making. The old military highway between Fort Crawford (at Prairie du Chien) and Fort Howard (at Green Bay) was constructed wholly by them, and is still in use. Between times, some of the officers found time to go on the chase for deer in the neighboring forest. Our old friend "Mi-ja-jin-a ka"* (Falls to the Ground) but better known as Dixon, whose erect form was frequently seen on Portage streets, loves to tell how he used to paddle a canoe on Swan Lake and in the rice fields for "two good officers" (meaning soldiers of rank) to shoot ducks.

So while old Fort Winnebago's history has not been distinguished by attacks, or massacres, or other stirring scenes, it has not been wholly uneventful.

During the Black Hawk War, which followed the suppression of the Winnebago outbreak, the garrison at the fort was assigned to more active duty. A portion of it was sent to Fort Atkinson to strengthen that post, under command of Capt. Low. What remained was so meager as to invite an attack from the Winnebagos, of whose good intentions the inmates were not well assured. The approach of Black Hawk, in 1832, was heralded, and consternation prevailed.† He detoured to the south with his braves, and was attacked and put to flight at what is known as the battle of Wisconsin Heights, in the town of Roxbury, in Dane county, a short distance south of the town of West Point. Some amusing episodes occurred while the attack was in expectancy, but no serious catastrophe resulted.

Mrs. Van Cleve, in writing of her marriage and other occurrences at the fort, has recorded this incident: "During the following summer (1836) a detachment of troops in command of Col. Zachary Taylor, accompanied by General Brady, came up to Fort Winnebago in consequence of an Indian scare, which was entirely imaginary, and camped on the prairie, just outside the fort. Their coming was a very pleasant event, and the more so because there was not, and never had been, any danger from the Indians, who were very peaceable neighbors. But we enjoyed the visit exceedingly, and the officers were frequently entertained at our quarters, at their meals. Very opportunely for us, the

*Mi-ja-jin-a-ka died at the Omaha reservation in 1903.

†Hon. Satterlee Clark, in an address in Portage stated that Black Hawk approached the fort to within about four miles above Swan Lake. He was manifestly in error, for it is known that the Sac chieftain did not come into Columbia county at all, during the Black Hawk War.

strawberries were abundant, and the flowers, which were beautiful and fresh every morning, were more lovely as ornaments than elegant plate of silver or gold."

At the conclusion of the Black Hawk War, in 1832, a treaty stipulation was entered into for the cession of all the Indian lands south and east of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers. One of the stipulations of the treaty was the surrender of certain individuals of their tribe, accused of having participated with the Sacs in some murders. The men were surrendered, according to agreement, and were confined in the "black-hole," as it was called, being an enormous dungeon under one of the fort buildings, to await trial. Although careful supervision was exercised, the Indians proceeded to plan their escape, and in about six weeks they had tunneled their way out under the walls in almost the precise manner that a number of Union officers made their escape from Libby prison thirty years later. That they might be as little encumbered as possible in their flight, they left their blankets behind them; and although it was bitter December weather, they took to the woods with only their calico shirts and leggins for covering. The question among the officers of the fort was, how to get the fugitives back. Kinzie, the agent, could promise no more than that he would communicate with the chiefs and represent the wishes of the officers that the prisoners should once more surrender themselves, and thus free those who had the charge of them from the imputation of carelessness, which the government would be very likely to throw upon them. When, therefore, according to their custom, the Winnebago chiefs assembled at the agency on New Year's day, 1833, the agent laid the subject before them. The Indians replied that if they saw the young men they would tell them what the officers would like to have them do. They could themselves do nothing in the matter. They had fulfilled their engagement by bringing them once, and putting them in the hands of the officers. The government had had them in its power once, and could not keep them; it must now go and catch them.

The social amenities of life were not neglected in the least degree by the few ladies who gave grace by their refining presence to fort life. Calls were made and returned then as now, and a lady took her position in a canoe to make or return a call on an acquaintance,—at Fort Craw-

ford down the Wisconsin, 118 miles distant, or down the Fox to Fort Howard, about 175 miles away,—with less ado and trouble in arranging her toilet for the occasion, than is sometimes experienced by our ladies of today in making a party call across the street. I have frequently heard a gentleman who was accustomed to escort ladies on such occasions, and paddle the canoe, and who made his bridal tour in that manner from the old Agency house to Green Bay, speak of the rare delight of these trips in a birchen canoe.

Mrs. Kinzie, a delicate young lady, and a stranger to life beyond the frontier, has told us most entertainingly in her *Wau-Bun*, of her trips to Green Bay by boat, and of her gallops to and from Chicago, sometimes in mid-winter, following bridle paths through the forests, fording swollen streams (for of bridges there were none), riding across treacherous marshes and through swamps, braving storms and inclement weather, partaking of Indian diet in their lodges at times, and subsisting as best she might, and remembering it all as a pleasant part of life.

Miss Marcy, daughter of Lieutenant Marcy (she later became the wife of Gen. George B. McClellan), gave the garrison a joy with her childish antics, and I have heard habitués of the fort refer with pride to the times when they dandled the dear little miss on their knees. The voice of Major Twiggs' daughter, Lizzie, first resounded in the fort in 1831, and so she is entitled to the distinction, as I suppose, of being the first person of Anglo-Saxon blood born within the present limits of Columbia county.*

It is not recorded, so far as I know, that the ladies had any quilting parties at the fort, but it requires no very great stretch of imagination to suppose that they did; and that the Sorosis was the leading intellectual society, and that its half a score of members worked comfortable slippers of buckskin, ornamented with brilliant wampum under the instructions of the dusky maidens, for New Year's presents for the young lieutenants, we may feel sure. The "Leisure Hour" society would have been much out of favor for there was no leisure for anybody; and the "Do Nothings" would have been hooted off the reservation, but no one thought of organizing such a society. The "Golden Gossips" probably existed under a less modern name, and undoubtedly included all the talent on the reservation, both male and female. The

*She died at the age of five, in Washington, D. C.

"Gastronomic Girls" (I think that was not its exact title) was in constant session, and great was the rivalry between its members for the honor of the most toothsome grilled venison steak or roasted canvas-back duck; and the "Silent Stitchers" never were idle and never were silent, I think.

Mrs. Van Cleve has written: "The memory of the weekly musicals at John Kinzie's pleasant agency, and the delightful rides on horseback over the portage to the point where Portage City now stands, quickens my heart even now." As Mrs. Van Cleve (then Charlotte Ouisconsin Clark) was shortly afterward married to Lieutenant Van Cleve, it is not difficult to guess who her escort was on these occasions. It is recorded that the ladies, ever foremost in good works, had a Sunday School in progress at the chapel, and let us feel well assured that the lessons they taught were fruitful of good results.

Neither was education, temporal or spiritual, neglected, as we learn from W. C. Whitford's paper on "Early History of Education in Wisconsin"* that Maj. John Green, commanding officer at Fort Winnebago, engaged, 1835, Miss Eliza Haight as governess in his family; he allowed the children of other officers of the fort to attend the school. There were in all about a dozen pupils. In the spring of 1840, Rev. S. P. Keyes became both chaplain and schoolmaster of the fort, and taught about twenty children, some of them over twelve years of age.

In the spring of 1833 the garrison was excited over the arrival of a clergyman, the Rev. Aratus Kent, of Galena, who was accompanied by his wife. "This event" Mrs. Kinzie wrote, "is memorable as being the first occasion on which the gospel, according to the Protestant faith, was preached at Fort Winnebago. The large parlor of the hospital was fitted up for the service, and gladly did we say to each other: 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!' For nearly three years had we lived here without the blessing of a public service of praise and thanksgiving. We regarded this commencement as an omen of better times, and our little 'sewing society' worked with renewed industry to raise a fund which might be available hereafter in securing the permanent services of a missionary."

The efforts of the ladies in their religious work were sometimes turned

*Wis. Hist. Colls., v. p. 331. The latest history of the subject is Stearn's *Columbian History of Education in Wisconsin* (Milw., 1893).]

in the direction of the Indians. Explaining the nature of their efforts to our old friend Dandy, he responded: "That is right; I am glad to see you doing your duty; I am very religious myself and I like to see others so. I always take care that my squaws attend to their duties, not reading, perhaps, but such as the Great Spirit liked, and such as I think proper and becoming."

The chapel, after the evacuation of the fort, continued to be used as such, and the late Rev. William Wells and the late Rev. Isaac Smith were accustomed to officiate there.

The spirit of speculation was also abroad, and army officers and their thrifty friends invested in government lands, and laid out on paper many a promising city. One of these embraced a considerable tract of land adjoining the military reserve on the east, fronting in part on Swan Lake and extending back to Stone Quarry Hill, to which was given the pretentious name of "Wisconsinapolis." When the capital of the state was being located, the embryo city received six affirmative votes, to seven in the negative. This proposition has been thought by some, unacquainted with its natural advantages, to have been a preposterous one; as a matter of fact it was a most eligible and appropriate location for the capital. Another village, called "Ida," occupies the precise spot on Swan Lake, platted recently as Oakwood, which promises to become a popular resort. Another one on the south side of Swan Lake was called "Winnebago City," but better known in the east as "Swan Lake City," and now much better known as "Wardle's Farm."

While the officers hunted and fished, and speculated in wild lands and city lots by day, and indulged in games and festivities and theatricals at night, and the ladies knit and crocheted and did bead work and conducted Sabbath schools, and attended to their household duties as well as they could with their surroundings, the soldiers stood sentry, and between times visited the sutler's stores and trading posts, and made merry generally by day and sang "Benny Havens, O!" by night. And so the sutler's store would resound with:

'Tis said that all republics
To their veterans thankless grow,
And for a youth of services

Award an age of woe;
 But if a private station brings
 More honor here below,
 Give me the one now occupied
 By Benny Havens, O!
 Old Benny Havens, O! Old Benny Havens, O!
 Give me the one now occupied by Benny Havens, O!

while the plaintive strains of "Alice Gray" and other less roystering songs would be wafted over the moor, after full honor had been done to "Benny Havens, O!" until the signal was given for retreat. In brief, army life at Fort Winnebago was very much like army life elsewhere. Athletics and theatricals, games and races, relieved the tedium; and discipline and demoralization, vice and virtue went hand in hand.

The old fort, however, like all earthly things, had its day. The approaching war with Mexico had reached its threatening stage; and preparatory for it, orders for the evacuation were issued in 1845, the troops being sent to St. Louis to relieve those stationed at Jefferson Barracks, who had been ordered to the Gulf, and a little later they followed them to the sanguinary fields of Mexico. When the evacuation took place, the fort was left in charge of Sergeant Van Camp; but he died shortly after, when Capt. William Weir was placed in charge, he having been a soldier in the Florida War and afterward at the fort. Later, he was a soldier in the Civil War. In 1853, the property was sold under the direction of Jefferson Davis, then secretary of war, who, as lieutenant in the army twenty three-years before, had assisted in the construction of the fort.

The fixtures and furniture left at the fort, when it was evacuated, were disposed of at auction or carried away at will; and many a family in the vicinage can boast of some old fort relic; the famous "Davises" could have been found in the inventories of the household effects of some families, and they may be in existence somewhere yet. An old sideboard that was in service at the Agency, presumably Mrs. Kinzie's, is one of the treasures in James Collins' household; and a bureau and sideboard, which constituted a part of the furniture in one of the officer's quarters, is in possession of Mrs. O. P. Williams; as is also the old carved wooden eagle that was perched over the main entrance.*

*[The eagle is now in the D. A. R. department of the Portage Public Library.]

As a necessary adjunct to the fort, a cemetery was established. It was not largely populated from the garrison, and the graves of none of the soldiers who died there during its occupancy are marked by stones. Major Clark and Captain Low were buried there; but, their remains were finally removed to the family grounds elsewhere. Robert Irwin, Jr., the Indian agent, died there July, 1833, but was buried at Fort Howard. Participants of all of the wars in which our country has been engaged have their last resting place in the cemetery.*

The cemetery seems to have been made general for the public for a period, and not a few of the families of citizens, more or less prominent, were buried there; but finally the national authorities took it directly in charge and built a substantial fence around it, and restricted its use to the military. Burials there in the future must be very few indeed; but it should be the duty of the national government to care for it more befittingly in the future. At present the cemetery is in charge of Wau-Bun chapter, D. A. R. and a miserable pittance is allowed for caring for it. Let this munificence of the government be spoken of in a whisper.

And now "Old Fort Winnebago," renowned by the presence in camp, according to tradition, of the gentle priest and teacher, Pere Jacques Marquette, carrying tidings to the savage of the Master and of the life to come, and bearing the message of peace on earth, and erecting before his wondering eyes the symbol of his faith on the very spot where, 150 years later, were erected the artifices and appliances of war, and occupied by men whose names illumine the pages of the history of our country; where the soldier stood sentry in the darkness of night to give warning of approaching danger; where flocks and herds now graze undisturbed, and the husbandman follows his peaceful pursuits with none to molest him or make him afraid, we take leave of you.

*The graves of one of the veterans of the Revolution, who was buried there, is discernible, the stone marking it bearing this inscription: Cooper Pixley, died March 12, 1855. AE 86 y., 7 m., 26 D. Soldier of the Revolution. The Wau-Bun chapter, D. A. R., annually repair thither on Memorial Day to give appropriate honor to the memory of the old soldier, one of the three, so far as is known, of the soldiers of the Revolution whose bones repose in Wisconsin soil. Soldiers of the War of 1812, of the war with the Seminoles in Florida, the Mexican war, the Black Hawk war, the Civil War, and the Spanish war, as well as of soldiers who served their country in the regular army but were not called to the battle field, find eternal rest in the cemetery, but their graves are unknown, the headboards which once marked them having been destroyed by a fire which swept over it. A small sand stone on which "Lyman Foot" is roughly chiseled, marks the spot in which an infant child of Surgeon Lyman Foot is buried, and is annually decorated.

CHAPTER XXI.

THE WINNEBAGO UPRISING—SURRENDER OF RED BIRD.

In 1827, near Prairie du Chien, murders perpetrated upon some white families, and an attack on a keel boat returning from Fort Snelling with some soldiers aboard of it, by Winnebago Indians, had excited the greatest consternation and produced widespread alarm. The affair was believed to be the beginning of a general outbreak on the part of the red skins and prompt measures were resorted to to give protection to the inhabitants. Troops were dispatched to the scene of action from Jefferson Barracks (St. Louis) and Fort Howard (Green Bay).

It is foreign to present purposes to give a detailed account of the occurrences alluded to, or of the events which led up to them, as historians have taken widely different views of them. It is the old story over again that, when Indians and whites have been brought in close contact, there has never cropped out, in the conduct of either party, any very tender solicitude for the welfare and happiness of the other. Where trouble has occurred it is like a Kentucky feud, of remote beginning and never ending.

One fact, and one only, in the "Winnebago Uprising," stands out clear and undisputed: murders were committed upon unoffending persons and were marked with great barbarity, and "Red Bird," a Winnebago Chief, whose village was on the Mississippi river, in Trempealeau county, was implicated in them. Previous to the murders he had been held in good esteem by the whites and was trusted implicitly by them.

Hon. M. M. Strong in his "History of Wisconsin," makes this mention of him: "Red Bird had not only been well known at Prairie du Chien, but had the confidence and respect of all the inhabitants to such an extent that he was always sought after as a protector, and his presence was looked upon as a pledge of security against any outbreak that might be attempted." Those who would know more of the particulars of the tragedy are referred to the Wisconsin Historical Collections.

After the murder Red Bird, and the other Indians implicated in the affair, fled up the Wisconsin river, and a mounted force to operate against the Winnebagoes as a body scoured both sides of the river up to Portage. Maj. Whistler, who was in command at Fort Howard, had been ordered by Gen. Atkinson to go up the Fox to the portage

with any force at his disposal. A company of Oneida and Stockbridge Indians accompanied Maj. Whistler's troops, and were encamped on the bluff opposite the portage where Fort Winnebago was subsequently built to await the arrival of the general. In the meantime the Winnebagoes, to the number of several hundred, were encamped on the ridge along where Cook street now runs, west of the Catholic church. The Winnebagoes had heard of Gen. Atkinson's approach, and Col. Dodge's pursuit, before they were known to Maj. Whistler, and in a few days a great stir was discovered among the Indians, and a party of thirty warriors was observed, by the aid of a field glass, on an eminence in the distance. It was Red Bird and his party coming in to surrender. The details of the surrender have been most graphically described by Col. Thomas L. McKenney, who was present with Maj. Whistler's command at the surrender:

"At about noon of the day following, there was seen descending a mound on the portage (Ketchum's Point) a body of Indians—some were mounted and some were on foot. By the aid of a glass we could discern the direction to be toward our position, and that three flags were borne by them—two, one in front and one in the rear, were American, and one in the center was white. They bore no arms. * * * In the course of half an hour they had approached within a short distance of the crossing of the Fox River, when on a sudden we heard a singing. Those who were familiar with the air said: 'It is a death song!' When still nearer, some present who knew him said: 'It is Red Bird singing his death song!' The moment a halt was made on the margin of the river, preparatory to crossing, two scalp yells were heard. The Menominees and other Indians who had accompanied us, were lying carelessly about upon the ground regardless of what was going on, but when the scalp yells were uttered they sprang as one man to their feet, seized their rifles and were ready for battle. They were at no loss to know that the yells were 'scalp yells' but they had not heard with sufficient accuracy to decide whether they indicated scalps to be taken or given, but doubtless inferred the first.

"Barges were sent across to receive, and an escort of military to accompany them within our lines. The white flag which had been seen in the distance was borne by Red Bird. * * * And now the advance of Indians had reached half up the ascent of the bluff, on which

was our encampment, and order being called, Car-a-mau-nee spoke, saying: 'They are here—like braves they have come in—treat them as braves—do not put them in irons.' * * * The military had been previously drawn out in line. The Menominee and Oneida Indians were in groups upon their haunches on our left flank. On the right was the band of music, a little in advance of the line. In front of the center, at about ten paces distant, were the murderers. On their right and left, were those who had accompanied them, forming a semi-circle; the magnificent Red Bird, and the miserable We-Kau, a little in advance of the center. All eyes were fixed upon Red Bird; and well they might be, for of all the Indians I ever saw he was, without exception, the most perfect in form, in face and gesture. In height he was about six feet, straight, but without restraint. His proportions were those of the most exact symmetry, and these embraced the entire man, from his head to his feet. His very fingers were models of beauty. I never beheld a face that was so full of all the ennobling and at the same time the most winning expression. It were impossible to combine with such a face the thought that he who wore it could be a murderer. It appeared to be a compound of grace and dignity, of firmness and decision, all tempered with mildness and mercy. During my attempted analysis of this face I could not but ask myself, 'Can this man be a murderer? Is he the same who shot, scalped and cut the throat of Gagnier?' His head, too—sure, no head was ever so well formed. There was no ornamenting of the hair, after the Indian fashion; no clubbing it up in blocks and rollers of lead on bands of silver; no loose or straggling parts, but it was cut after the best fashion of the most civilized. His face was painted, one side red, the other intermixed with green and white. Around his neck he wore a collar of blue wampum, beautifully mixed with white, which was sewn on to a piece of cloth, the width of the wampum being about two inches, whilst the claws of the panther or wildcat, distant from each other about a quarter of an inch, with their points inward, formed the rim of the collar. Around his neck were hanging strands of wampum of various lengths, the circles enlarging as they descended. He was clothed in a Yankton dress—new and beautiful. The material was of dressed elk or deer skin, almost a pure white. It consisted of a jacket, the sleeves being cut to fit his finely formed arm, and so as to leave outside of the seam that ran from the shoulder, back of the arm and along

over the elbow, about six inches of the material, one-half of which was cut into fringe; the same kind of fringe ornamenting the collar of the jacket, its sides, bosom and termination, which was not circular, but cut into points, and which also ran down the seams of the leggins, these being made of the same material. Blue beads were employed to vary and enrich the fringe of the leggins. On his feet he wore moccasins.

"A piece of scarlet cloth about a quarter of a yard deep, and double that width, a slit being cut in its middle, so as to admit the passing through of his head, rested, one-half on his breast and beneath the necklace of wampum and claws, and the other on his back. On one shoulder and near his breast, was a beautifully ornamented feather, nearly white; and about opposite, on the other shoulder, was another feather, nearly black, near which were two pieces of thin shaven wood in the form of a compass, a little open, each about six inches long, richly wrapped around with porcupine's quills, dyed yellow, red and blue. On the tip of one shoulder was a tuft of horse hair, dyed red, and a little curled, mixed up with ornaments. Across the breast, in a diagonal position, and bound tight to it, was his war pipe, at least three feet long, brightly ornamented with dyed horse hair, the feathers and bills of birds. In one of his hands he held the white flag, and in the other the calumet, or pipe of peace.

"There he stood—not a muscle moved, nor was the expression of his face changed a particle. He appeared to be conscious that, according to Indian law, and measuring the deed he had committed by the injustice and wrongs and cruelties of the white man, he had done no wrong. The light which had shown in upon his bosom from the law, which demanded an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth, so harmonized with his conscience as to secure its repose.

"As to death, he had been taught to despise it, confiding in that Heaven, that Spirit-land, where the game is always plenty, the forests always green, the waters always transparent, tranquil and pure, and where no evil thing is permitted to enter. He was therefore prepared to receive the blow that should consign his body to the ground and send his spirit to that blissful region to mingle with his fathers who had gone before him. He and We-Kau were told to sit down. His motions, as he seated himself, were no less graceful and captivating than when he stood or walked. At this moment the band struck up Pleyel's hymn. Everything was

still. It was, indeed, a moment of intense interest to all. The Red Bird turned his eyes toward the band; the notes operated upon his feelings in such a way as to produce in his countenance a corresponding pensiveness. The music having ceased, he took up his pouch (which I forgot to say was a handsomely ornamented otter skin, that hung on his left side,) and taking from it some kinnickinnic and tobacco, cut the latter in the palm of his hand, after the Indian fashion, then rubbing the two together filled the bowl of his calumet, struck fire into a bit of punk with his flint and steel, and lighted it and smoked. All the motions employed in this ceremony were no less harmonious and appropriate than had characterized his other movements. He sat after the Turkish fashion with his legs crossed.

"If you think there was anything of affection in all this, you are mistaken. There was just the manner, and appearance, and look, you would expect to see in a nobly built man of the highest order of intelligence, and who had been taught all the graces of motion, and then escorted by his armies to a throne, where the diadem was to be placed upon his head. * * * All sat except the speakers. The substance of what they said was:

"We were required to bring in the murderers. They had no power over any, except two—the third had gone away, and these had voluntarily agreed to come in and give themselves up. As their friends, they had come with them. They hoped their white brothers would agree to accept the horses of which there were perhaps twenty, the meaning of which was, to take them in commutation for the lives of their two friends. They asked kind treatment for their friends, and earnestly besought that they might not be put in irons, and concluded by asking for a little tobacco and something to eat. They were answered, and told, in substance, that they had done well thus to come in. By having done so, they had turned away our guns, and saved their people. They were admonished against placing themselves in a like situation in the future; and advised, when they were aggrieved, not to resort to violence, but to go to their agent, who would inform their Great Father of their complaints, and he would redress their grievance that their friends should be treated kindly, and and tried by the same laws by which their Great Father's white children were tried; that for the present, Red Bird and We-Kau should not be put in irons; that they

should all have something to eat and tobacco to smoke. We advised them to warn their people against killing ours; and endeavored also to impress them with a proper notion of their own weakness, and the extent of our power, etc.

"Having heard this, the Red Bird stood up, the commanding officer, Maj. Whistler, a few paces in front of the center of the line, facing him. After a moment's pause, and a quick survey of the troops, and with a composed observation of his people, he said, looking at Maj. Whistler:

" 'I am ready.' Then advancing a step or two, he paused, saying: 'I do not wish to be put in irons. Let me be free. I have given away my life—it is gone;' stooping and taking some dust between his finger and thumb, and blowing it away, 'like that,' eyeing the dust as it fell and vanished from his sight; then adding: 'I would not take it back. It is gone.'

"Having thus spoken, he threw his hands behind him, to indicate that he was leaving all things behind him, and marched briskly up to Maj. Whistler, breast to breast. A platoon was wheeled backwards from the center of the line, when Maj. Whistler stepping aside, the Red Bird and We Kau marched through the line, in charge of a file of men, to a tent that had been provided for them in the rear.

Col. Childs, in his "Recollections of Wisconsin," thus describes Red Bird as he saw him on the same occasion: "He was dressed in fine style, having on a suit made of neatly-dried buffalo skins perfectly white, and as soft as a kid glove; and on each shoulder, to supply the place of an epaulette, was fastened a preserved red bird. Hence the name of this noted chief, Red Bird."

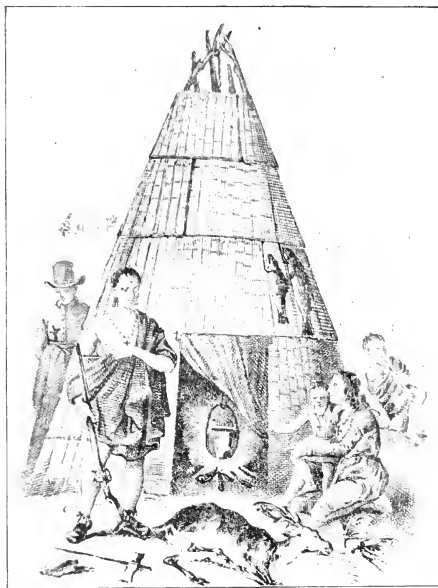
The prisoners were sent to Prairie du Chien for trial and were tried before Judge Doty and convicted, but sentence was deferred for some cause. While confined, Red Bird sickened and died, committed suicide, Mrs. Kinzie says, in Waubun, in consequence of chagrin, the ignominy of his confinement being more than his proud spirit could bear; he had expected death. Gen. Smith, who came to the territory at a very early period, and was entirely familiar with Indian character, speaking of the affair in his "History of Wisconsin," states:

"The delay of administering justice was to the Indian a matter not comprehended; they, scarcely in any instance, deny an act which they had committed, and do not understand why punishment should not be

immediately inflicted on the guilty. The imprisonment of the body is to them a most insufferable grievance, and they look upon the act as cowardice on the part of the whites, presuming that they dare not inflict such punishment as the crime demands."

Red Bird's accomplices in the murder were subsequently sentenced to be hung December 26, 1828, but before that date they were pardoned by President Adams, one of the implied conditions being that the Indians should cede the lands the miners had already appropriated to their use to the government. Mrs. Gagnier was compensated for the loss of her husband and the mutilation of her infant.

What more inspiring subject for the genius of the painter could be suggested than Red Bird's surrender thus described. The artist who places it on canvas will immortalize himself.



A MISSIONARY'S TENT IN AN INDIAN VILLAGE

CHAPTER XXII.

THE FIRST CHURCH IN CENTRAL WISCONSIN.

In September, 1832, Father Samuele Carlo Mazzuchelli, a Dominican missionary "among the various tribes of savages and among Catholics

and protestants in the United States" visited the Winnebagoes near the Wisconsin Portage, having been the first missionary since the days of Allouez, Dablon and Marquette, one hundred and fifty years before, to visit central Wisconsin. On this visit he held service on the prairie near the village of the De Kaury's south of the Wisconsin river. A bower was erected for the purpose which was decorated with vines, wild flowers and ferns by the Indian maidens, and was largely attended by members of the tribe. He was unable to make himself understood until he fell in with



FATHER SAMUELE CARLO MAZZUCHELLI.

Pierre Pauquette, the famous Indian trader at the portage, who rendered much assistance in preaching and confessions.

Under his ministration there were many converts to the faith. Prompted by his teachings the noted fur trader, Pierre Pauquette, erected a small log church in 1833-34, which stood in Adams street near its junction with Conant street. This was the first church built in Wisconsin between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River. Under it Pauquette, who had been slain by an Indian in 1836, was buried. The

church was destroyed by fire and Pauquette's remains were removed to a lot on the opposite side of the street, where they are supposed to remain.



The influence of the missionary's visit to the Winnebagoes is noted by Mrs. Kinzie in her *Wau Bun*. She had offered a glass to one of the squaws which was declined with a finger pointed at the crucifix which hung around her neck. "It gave me a lesson," she says, "of more power than twenty sermons. Never before had I seen a glass refused from a religious motive."

Father Mazzuchelli subsequently established the Saint Clara Academy at Sinsinawa Mound, in Grant county, which has become one of the most famous institutions of the kind in the state.

CHAPTER XXIII.

WHERE WAS ALLOUEZ' MISSION OF ST. JAMES IN THE MASCOUTEN VILLAGE?

[The spelling of the name of this tribe of Indians has, like all the others, undergone many changes since it was first written by the early visitors, each of them having his own peculiar method of rendering it. The spelling here given—*Mascoutens*—is that which has come into most general use. The meaning of the name has also been variously translated; at first, as the "Fire Nation," but later as the "Prairie People." Charlevoix, a high authority, says the true name is "*Mascoutenec*," signifying an open country.]

While it is known that Father Claude Jean Allouez, who is called the builder of Wisconsin's first Indian missions, established a mission on the upper Fox among the Mascoutens in 1673, the exact location of it has never been definitely ascertained. But few subjects relating to Wisconsin history have been discussed more than this and with less satisfactory results. Some writers have attempted to give it a definite

location, but none has been able to bring many people to his way of thinking. No different result is expected from the publication of my own conclusions.

In writing upon the subject Hon. P. V. Lawson has contributed a most interesting paper which he introduced with the following paragraph:

The location of this village, one of the landmarks in the field work of our history; has always excited interest among those who love the tales of long ago, as it has been associated with the names of nearly all of that daring and courageous band of missionaries and explorers who grace our early annals. As the chroniclers of old had no surveys or maps, but passed these streams in their virgin glory, it is not surprising that their descriptions are indefinite. When we find the place where the Mascoutens had their village and palisaded fort, we stand surely upon ground over which stalked the knightly LaSalle, and dreamily moved the good friar Hennepin; where Allouez ate at the savage board and Dablon enjoyed their hospitality; where the mercenary soldiers of Louis XIV. and the Iroquois burned the last savage village and destroyed the last savage garden on the river, and the one-armed Tonti rested in his long search for his chevalier; and Joliet bore the flaming banner of France. Sham glory and knightly chivalry have passed across the few acres which encompass that simple village home of old on the far frontier of Nouvelle France.

Father Dablon had visited a village of the Mascoutens on the 30th of April, 1670, having entered the Fox on the 29th, according to the published journal. Father Allouez had established the mission of St. James at a village of the Mascoutens in May, 1672. Pere Marquette and Sieur Joliet visited a mission established by Allouez, in June, 1673, among the Mascoutens, which was described by Marquette as having been three leagues, "*trois lieus*," from the "portage" between the Fox and Wisconsin rivers.

A point three leagues from the portage would have been nearly one hundred miles from the junction of the Fox with the Wolf River, although but about 90 miles at the present time, the channel having been shortened by cutting off numerous bends in the Fox in improving the navigation of the river. Mr. C. W. Butterfield, a historian of note, advanced the idea that it would have been quite impossible for Dablon to have ascended the Fox River to within three leagues of the portage during the 29th and 30th of April, and so he reached the abrupt conclusion that Allouez' Mission was where the village of Marquette now stands. To have said it was "quite impossible to reach a point three leagues from the portage, is putting it too strong, I must think. In

view of Marquette's statement I think the more apt expression would have been "very probable." Mr. Butterfield's conclusions have been quite generally accepted by historians who have followed him; by some of them upon slight investigation and by others upon none at all.

Judge Gary in his "Studies of the Early History of the Fox River Valley" gave the mission a definite location in section thirty-two, town eighteen, range fourteen, in Rushford, Winnebago County, but has quite generally failed to satisfy other investigators, I think, of the correctness of his views; Secretary Thwaites of the State Historical society, places it farther up the river between Berlin and Princeton; Hon. P. V. Lawson thinks it was above Princeton in the peninsula made by the Great Bend in the Upper Fox River in the town of Princeton; Moses M. Strong placed it at the head of Buffalo Lake; Father Verwyst, at about three miles east of Corning Station; Father LaBoule, at Ste. Marie; Father Holtzknecht, at Marquette; while Rev. Thomas Clithero, who has given much consideration to the subject, is firm in his conviction that it was near Governor's Bend in the town of Fort Winnebago on the west bank of Fox River* on section sixteen, town twelve, range nine, three French leagues from the portage, as Marquette had written, all of them, except Mr. Clithero, agreeing that there must have been an error in Marquette's journal in writing "three leagues" and that he must have meant "thirty leagues" or "three days," and, satisfied on that point, each one has found a different location for "St. James" farther down the river than three leagues from the "portage" according to his individual views. They argue that from two to three miles an hour would be an average canoe journey. This is not an unreasonable estimate for a journey made for pleasure or one not requiring expedition. But Dablon was not out on a picnic excursion when he started for the Mascoutens, neither was he paddling his own canoe. While we have no exact data as to the time he entered the Fox† or when he reached Mascouten, something must be left to reasonable presumption, but no

*My own opinion is that the elevation on the east bank of the river answers the description more completely than that on the west bank.

†The thought suggests itself that Father Dablon may have written "27th" as the day he entered the Fox, instead of the "29th," in which case no controversy could have arisen as to the time when he reached the Mascouten village. Every proof reader knows that no error on the part of compositors and copyists is so frequent as is the mistaken of a figure "7" for a "9."

theory should be resorted to, or conclusion jumped at, that is not in the line of entire probability.

On this basis we may fairly assume that Dablon's visit to the Mascoutens was an important one, and the journey to it was to be made as expeditiously as possible. Taking to his service a crew of Indians, very likely of four or more, with a light birch bark canoe, he doubtless impressed his craftsmen with the necessity of rapid work to reach the objective point, if it was necessary to reach it on the following day.

So the problem resolves itself into the simple proposition: Could a light birch bark canoe be propelled by a crew of Indians one hundred miles inside of thirty-six hours? That satisfactorily answered, a conclusion can easily be reached. If it was impossible to do it that ends the contention on that point, and the authenticity of Marquette's journal must rest on the theory that Allouez' Mission was not located in the Mascouten village visited by Dablon in 1670. But if the 100 miles could be made inside of thirty-six hours, there will be no necessity for looking for other evidence to sustain the reliability of his journal and there should be no further attempt to discredit it.

I have made much inquiry of rivermen accustomed to the use of both paddles and oars and have propounded to them this question: What time could be made with a light birch bark canoe, paddled up the Fox by a crew of four Indians, if they had been duly impressed with the necessity of "getting there" as expeditiously as possible? The answer has uniformly been, four miles easily, five miles without difficulty, and six miles if all conditions, wind, etc., were favorable.*

Bishop Jackson Kemper writing many years ago of a visit to Green

*Corroboratory of this evidence of the distance that could have been made by the canoe men we have this statement which we find in Shea's *Discovery and Exploration of the Mississippi*, page 8. "The Canadian canoe made use of in this expedition (Marquette's) was built of birch bark, cedar splints and ribs of spruce roots, covered with yellow pitch pine so light and so strong that they could be carried across portages on the shoulders of four men and paddled at the rate of four miles per hour in smooth water." Capt. Thomas G. Anderson, whose name figures conspicuously in connection with the British capture of Prairie du Chien, in his "Personal Narrative" has also told us something of canoe voyaging: "Away we started for the Portage and Ouisconsin. On this portage I first became acquainted with rattlesnakes, and from all I had heard I was not desirous of getting used to them. Eighteen hours travel [118 miles] brought us to Prairie du Chien on the Mississippi." This was down stream, it is true, but it is not probable that the current would have aided his progress much more than three or four hours.

Bay recorded what he saw and learned of the habits of the voyageurs in early times. I quote from his journal as given in Volume XIV of the Wisconsin Historical Collections: "A Conversation Concerning Voyageurs. They go 100 miles in 24 hours and paddle 22 hours. When they stop the man who is carried cooks, that is, boils the Indian corn with tallow while the men sleep."

An Indian's hour for his purpose is any hour; daylight and moonlight are all the same to him. Regarding the black robed priest with a superstitious awe and reverence, his wishes would have been executed by him in the fullest degree; his powers of endurance are phenomena; hours for refreshment were not frequent; the cuisine was simple, the menu was not a long one and "courses" were not numerous. A simple tightening of the belt answered if the jerked meat was deficient. The days were not unduly warm and the nights were not unreasonably cool; betimes at midnight, he may have lain in the shadow of a sheltering tree and plied his paddle vigorously by the silver light of the moon and landed Pere Dablon at the Mascouten village before the disappearance of the sun the day after leaving Buttes des Morts. If Pere Dablon had said, "get there tomorrow," Lo would have got there or broke a paddle. Think you he would not? He would.

A map in the Relations of 1670-71, places it very near the portage. Marquette has informed us in his journal that he "knew" that there was, three leagues from Mascoutens, a river emptying into the Mississippi. Dablon, in describing the village, says that after landing his boat and walking a short league, he came to the village, "the view from which is beautiful and very picturesque from the eminence on which it perched." Marquette makes no mention of walking overland to reach the village, but simply says, "Here we are then, at Mascoutens," leaving the impression that he found it immediately on the banks of the river. The village itself was situated on "a little rising ground." The suggestion that the village visited by Dablon and Marquette may not have been the same, is thrown out as a probability, but its acceptance is not at all necessary to sustain the accuracy of Marquette's journal.

Allouez' work among the Wisconsin tribes is described in his report to his superior. In May 1672, he goes to the Mascouten village on the upper Fox river. Here he finds nearly two hundred cabins of savages (indicating a population of about 1200.)—(See Hist. Collections, Vol. XVI, page 87, Canadian Archives.

In the following year the statement is made, in the same volume (page 94), that the Mascouten village has been increased by refugees from many tribes to a population of 20,000 souls. It is difficult to account for this unexampled expansion. The thought forces itself that the village first visited by Dablon, April 30, 1670, was but one of several villages of the tribe, the principal one being three leagues from the portage where Allouez established his mission, the augmentation being of the Kickapoos, ~~Miamis~~ and Weas, who had at some time become affiliated with the Mascoutens, but a population of 20,000 of these allied tribes must, I think, be regarded as excessive, or at least, may have embraced the population of the entire thirty villages of the nation, wherever located.

I cannot undertake to say that it never was the custom for a tribe or nation to have all of its families at a single point, but certainly some of them did not. The relations of 1658 have informed us that the Mascoutens had thirty villages. It is known to all in this vicinity that the Winnebagoes had many villages. Mrs. Kinzie, in writing of the Indian payment at Winnebago Portage in 1828 says, "There were two divisions of the Winnebago Indians * * * The principal villages of this division of the tribe were at Lake Winnebago, (several of them), Green and Fox Lakes, the Barribault, Mud Lake, (at Corning Station, Butterfield says in Dodge County), the Four Lakes (Madison), Koshkonong and Turtle Creek (Beloit). "The other division was over on the Mississippi, Red Bird's village being north of La Crosse in Trempealeau County.

So it seems to me the most reasonable theory is that the Mascoutens village first visited by Dablon in 1670 was but one of the smaller outlying ones and that the main village where Allouez established a mission two years later, which was visited by Marquette in 1673, was where he located it, three leagues from the portage.

If we may conclude then that such was the fact, we find there every condition referred to by Marquette. He says, "As we approached the Mashkoutons, the Fire Nation, I had the curiosity to drink the mineral waters of the river which is not far from this town." Turning aside from his ascent of the Fox he would, by running up the Neenah Creek, a little more than half a mile, come to a famous spring on section eight, near Corning Station. Continuing his narrative Marquette wrote, "I

also took time to examine an herb, the virtue of which an Indian who possessed the secret had, with many ceremonies, made known to Father Alloues. Its root is useful against the bite of serpents, the Almighty having been pleased to give this remedy against a poison very common in this country. * * * I put some into my canoe to examine it at leisure while we went on our way toward Maskoutons where we arrived on the 7th of June. Here we are then at Maskoutons."

The most famous spring in the Fox River valley, of which I have any knowledge—for I assume that the "mineral waters of the river" of which Marquette speaks, are those of a spring or a rivulet discharged from a spring—is that above alluded to, near Corning Station. As it flows across the morass a few rods to discharge into the Neenah the medical herb, *Gilliana Trifoliata*, or Indian Snake Root, Marquette refers to as an antidote for the snake bite, will be found in abundance.

It would seem that every traveler, who crossed the portage in early times, did so with an awe of the serpent, for I have never read one of their accounts in which the numerous *serpens a sonnettes* they saw were not abundantly referred to, although I believe none of them ever recorded any unhappy experiences with them beyond their disagreeable presence. At all events Marquette provided himself with the herb, as most fishermen do with something when they go into dangerous places inhabited by the tenants of the pool. So, fortified with herbs, Marquette returned to his canoe and proceeded on his way to the village "not far away." Reaching it he exclaims "Here we are then, at Maskoutons." There is no mention made of having to walk "a short league" to reach it, as Dablon had, so one would conclude that it was situated on the immediate banks of the river.

The fact is not to be over looked that the village may have been on the Neenah instead of the Fox, for many of the earliest maps show the Neenah as a portion of the Fox, and the latter river from the junction of the two streams was considered as an affluent of the Fox, instead of a portion of it.

So, while unreservedly admitting that the opinions formed by such eminent authorities as Secretary Thwaites, of the Wisconsin State Historical Society, Consul W. Butterfield, who stands deservedly high as a historian, and Hon. P. V. Lawson, who has given the subject great attention, are entitled to the highest consideration, I find myself

unable to accept either their "impossible" theory or an "error" in Marquette's journal, the general accuracy of which I believe to be fully sustained; and I also believe that if these historians should enter upon a more thorough investigation of the subject at the present time they would find abundant grounds for reversing the opinions previously entertained.

A simple reference will show on what a slimy basis is built the theory held by some that Marquette could not have meant "three leagues" from the portage. Judge Gary, in his valuable work already alluded to, after quoting these words from Marquette, "The way is so cut up by marshes and little lakes that it is easy to go astray, etc.," comments, thus "Three leagues would be between seven and eight miles from the portage in which there may have been marshes but *no lakes*." By "little lakes" Marquette undoubtedly meant the bayous, lagoons, ponds and expansion of the river. The expansion of the river or pond, just above its junction with the Neenah, was always known in this section as far back as it was known at all, as "Mud Lake" and on its banks was a Winnebago village. "Little lakes" may not have been the very best term to describe these ponds, etc., but they were either that, or nothing else than "river." Mr. Lawson has followed Judge Gary's error in his misunderstanding.

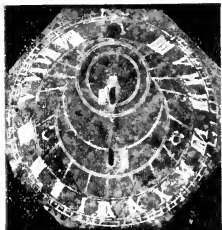
Another curious paragraph, by no less an authority than Justin Winsor, appears in his description of the portage between the Fox and Wisconsin rivers. He says, "the carry (portage) they found an easy one, through a level region, and somewhat less than two miles across *through marshes and ponds filled with wild rice*." A level plain, or marsh, if that term is preferable, there was, but where the "ponds and wild rice" were, is unknown.

These may be regarded as errors of trivial importance, but they are quite as substantial as the other theories advanced so strenuously to discredit Marquette's statement.

If the opinion here expressed should come to be accepted as correct, a great deal of what has passed for "history," as affecting this locality, will have to be re-written, especially that part of it of Mr. Butterfield's wherein he asserts, as one speaking with the crown of infallibility "Nicolet was never in Columbia County." I cannot conceive how he,

Nicolet, should have failed to reach the Wisconsin River, as his mission to this Northwest was to gather all the information he could, for the French Government, concerning its rivers leading to the seas.

The Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers were as well known to the Mascoutens, with whom he was sojourning at that time, as they are to the Winnebagoes of today, and they must have informed him of the nearness of the Wisconsin. While no positive statement can be made that he did not reach the Wisconsin, as early writers have stated he did, there is vastly more evidence to show that Nicolet stood upon its banks in Portage, where Marquette and Joliet did twenty-nine years later, than there is for Mr. Butterfield's positive statement that he did not.



[Since the above was written a sundial unearthed on the west bank of the Fox river where Rev. Thomas Clithero believes the Mascouten village was located, bearing the date "1606" has been brought to my notice. It was dug up in September, 1903, by Mr. James Kirwin of Portage, while digging for bait. It is quite similar to the one found near Green Bay in 1902, a cut of which appears in the XVIth volume of the Wisconsin

Historical Collections, and which Secretary Thwaites says "may have belonged to some fur trader or missionary.]



CHAPTER XXIV.

JEAN NICOLET IN COLUMBIA COUNTY.

In the preceding chapter the location of Allouez' Mission of St. James, in the Mascouten village, has been discussed at some length. It was at this village that Jean Nicolet spent several months in 1634, having been sent to the northwest by Champlain, governor of New France, to learn what he could of the then wholly unknown region lying to the west of the great lakes, concerning which vague reports, brought by the Indians, were being heard at Quebec. The purpose of the French government to exercise dominion over all the country west of the lakes, was already being made manifest. Nicolet returned to Quebec the following year, as is supposed, but he had kept no journal of what he saw or learned, and made no written report to Champlain of the results of his expedition, as far as known; so how far he went beyond the Mascouten village is a matter of conjecture only, but it is incredible that he should have stopped there, and learned nothing of the country lying beyond, which was so inviting a field for an explorer. His great reputation as a thorough explorer negatives any such idea.

The only thing that throws any light upon what he did is what Vimont, in the Jesuit Relations of 1640, has related in a most incomplete and indefinite manner, what Nicolet had said to him concerning the country which he had visited. Says Vimont: "The Sieur Nicolet, who had penetrated the farthest into these remote countries, assured me that if he had sailed three days further [where from?] upon a large river which issues from this lake [what lake?] he would have reached the sea." This led some of the early historians to the belief that Nicolet had reached the Mississippi and descended it to within a three days sail of the sea. Mr. C. W. Butterfield, however, as well as other historians, reached the conclusion that the word "sea," as thus used, meant a "river." He then concluded that the "large river" referred to by Nicolet, was the Fox, and the "sea" was the Mississippi river. He also concludes, without any reason therefor, as I must think, that Nicolet never ascended the Fox any further than the Mascouten village, which he locates definitely, in his own mind, in Green Lake County, "thirty leagues from the portage," preferring to consider that there was a clerical error in Marquette's journal in which he located the village he

had visited at "three leagues from the portage." There is small warrant for concluding there was such an error, but if there was and the Mascouten village was, in fact, in Green Lake County, there is not a particle of evidence to show that Nicolet meant the Fox river, when he used the words ascribed to him by Vimont, "If he had sailed three days further upon a large river * * * he would have reached the sea," nor that he regarded the Mississippi river, as the "sea." The least reflection precludes such an interpretation of Nicolet's language, if he used it at all. That Father Vimont did not fully quote *Sieur Nicolet's* language in the words he ascribes to him is quite apparent, and leaves much as to what was said to conjecture, as unsatisfactory as it may be. So Mr. Butterfield, in conjecturing, makes the words of Nicolet quoted, harmonize with his own theory, as to some other controverted points, in this manner: "The language of Vimont, as now interpreted [by Mr. B.,] is equivalent to this: "The *Sieur Nicolet*, who has penetrated the farthest into the upper lake regions assured me [Vimont] that if he had paddled his birch bark canoe three days further up the Fox river [the words were "upon a large river"] which flows into Green Bay, he would have reached the Wisconsin river. Nicolet then, did not visit the valley of the Mississippi—he did not re-discover it. This honor belongs to another. He was not in Columbia County in 1634, nor at any other time." Mr. Butterfield's reconstruction of Vimont's language falls short, in no particular, of absolute absurdity. A much more rational rendering of it would, in my opinion, read like this: The *Sieur Nicolet*, who had penetrated the furthest west into these remote countries, assured me that if he had sailed three days further upon a large river [the Wisconsin] which issues from a lake [Lac Vieux Desert] he would have reached the Mississippi flowing to the sea." This rendering may not be accepted, but it avoids the necessity of considering the Fox as a "large river" and the Mississippi as the "sea"—and also of explaining that Vimont meant to say "flowing out of Green Bay" instead of "into it," and gives Nicolet's language a rational interpretation, at least.

Neither would it be necessary to express surprise at the absence of any account whatever of what Nicolet did after visiting central Wisconsin. He had looked upon the waters that flow to the sea, and had gained all the information from the Indians he desired concerning them, when he stood upon the banks of the Wisconsin river, at the portage;

so he returned to Quebec to render an account of his stewardship, in person, to Champlain, who had sent him on the expedition.

If those who contend that Nicolet did, in fact, reach the Mississippi and descend it to within three days of the sea (and it is not at all certain that he did not), it is morally certain that he did not depart from the Mascouten village, wherever located, to make an overland trip to some point on the Mississippi, when a much easier trip by water, was at hand, which would have taken him through Columbia County. But, even if he did make an overland journey, the trail from the Mascouten village would have taken him through Columbia County, for a well defined Indian trail on the west bank of the Fox river to the Four Lakes region, had been known to exist for more than a century, and it has not been wholly obliterated to this day, I am assured, by those who knew it well half a century ago.

So, with all respect to Mr. Butterfield, whose ability as a historian is justly acknowledged by all, I conclude that Nicolet had stood upon the banks of the Wisconsin river, at the terminus of the portage, in 1634, and was the first white man to visit Columbia County, and we honor him accordingly.

JEAN NICOLET.

First of our race who came to greet
Wisconsin, "where the waters meet";
Who heard old Michigan's loud roar,
That like a sea-god guards our shore,
And the wind-harp's wild minstrelsy
Of far Superior's great sea.

Among the rapids and the rocks,
Then up the windings of the Fox,
This son of venture and free lance,
Carried the fleur-de-lis of France;
His eye the first of all the race,
To see our fair Wisconsin's face.

All honor to this fearless knight,
Who hated wrong and loved the right,
Who served his king and country's cause,
But high above them placed God's laws;
And evermore thus set his seal
On our Wisconsin's future weal.

Others who came in after days,
Have had their ample meed of praise;
I sing to him who blazed the way,
Brave son of France—Jean Nicolet.

—LOUISE PHILLIPS.

CHAPTER XXV.

WISCONSIN'S WAR GOVERNOR, JAMES T. LEWIS.

In the quiet of his old "colonial" home, picturesque in its environs, and hallowed by many sacred memories, Wisconsin's venerable War Governor still lives, nearing his eighty-fifth year, enjoying the repose earned by a long and honorable life, tenderly cared for by loved and loving children, amid troops of friends, serenely but bravely awaiting "the inevitable hour."

JAMES TAYLOR LEWIS, the subject of this sketch, a native of Clarendon, Orleans County, New York, was born October 30, 1819. From the union of Shubael Lewis and Eleanor Robertson, seven children were born, and of these James was the third child and third son. His paternal grandfather, Samuel Lewis, was a native of New England and lived for a time at Brimfield, Mass. This branch of the family is of English lineage, with probably a slight admixture of Welsh. From the maternal side he received a strong infusion of Scotch blood—a blood prepotent to a high degree in its assimilation with others with which it commingles.

There is, however, little authentic history touching the first migration of the family from the old world. At all events the record is so hidden in the far past that for present purposes the Lewis family may rightly be considered as:

"Native here,
And to the manner born."

The Lewises about whom we are immediately concerned, were first known in the New York village already mentioned. The family must have been fairly well-to-do, for we learn that James had completed the English and classic courses at Clarkson College and Clinton Seminary, New York, and was prepared for admission to the bar before he had attained his twenty-sixth year.

As early as the year 1845, anticipating by many years the wisdom and importance of Horace Greeley's advice to young men about going west, he removed to Wisconsin and opened a law office in Columbus, where for nearly sixty years he has since resided. The following year he returned to his old home and was married to Miss Orlina M. Sturges, the beautiful and cultured daughter of a prominent merchant and es-

teemed citizen of Clarendon. From this marriage four children were born, Henry S , the eldest, who died in infancy; Selden J., so named for his father's early friend and benefactor, the eminent Judge Selden, and sometime governor of New York; Charles R., named for the



HON. JAMES T. LEWIS.

late Hon. Charles D. Robinson of Green Bay, an esteemed friend of the family in pioneer days in Wisconsin, and Mrs. Anna L. Dudley, the

accomplished wife of Mr. Frank Dudley, long a highly trusted official of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway company in Chicago. The elder son, Selden, is a prominent lawyer and much respected citizen of Vermillion, South Dakota; Charles R., the younger son, has for many years held important and responsible official positions with the St. Paul railway in Minneapolis.

Declining tempting inducements to open a law office in a neighboring town near his old home in New York, young Lewis, with his bride, removed in July, 1846, to Columbus, as already stated, where he has since resided. This singularly happy union was severed, however, by the death of Mrs. Lewis, in the year 1903, who died profoundly mourned by all who had known her in life, and their name was legion.

Upon his arrival in the territory, Mr. Lewis, at once, began the practice of law in the inferior and nisi prius courts and was early admitted to the bar of the supreme court. While Wisconsin was still a territory, he was chosen probate or county judge, and a few years later was elected district attorney for Columbia County. Our young attorney's law practice was early interrupted by calls to the public service and the allurements and fascinations offered by business inducements in a new country. In 1848 he was chosen a member of the second constitutional convention and is probably the last living signer of that organic act. He was less than thirty years of age when he sat as a member of this convention. In 1852 he was elected a member of the lower house of the State Legislature and the following year was chosen a state senator. As a legislator he took an active and prominent part, having a place on many important committees. It was during the session of 1853 that the senate sat as a court of impeachment upon the trial of Levi Hubbell, judge of the second judicial circuit. The trial attracted universal interest because of the prominence of the defendant and the eminence of the attorneys engaged on either side. Judge Hubbell was acquitted after a prolonged trial, Senator Lewis voting for acquittal.

In 1854 Senator Lewis was elected Lieutenant Governor and as such it became incumbent upon him to preside over the senate of which he had so recently been a member. As presiding officer of the body he was specially distinguished for fairness, impartiality and uniform courtesy. His term as Lieutenant Governor ended, he resumed his private business at Columbus, which he continued uninterrupted till the outbreak

of the civil war. Hitherto he had been a consistent and steadfast democrat of the Silas Wright school, but at the opening of hostilities, he soon became restive under party restraints and early repudiated what he conceived to be a lack of frankness and unquestioned loyalty on the part of the dominant leaders of the democratic party. Indignantly declaring that "he who is not a faithful friend of the government of his country, in this trying hour, is no friend of mine," he at once threw the weight of his name and influence in support of the war, holding that partisanship should abate in such a fearful emergency. It was the course of thousands!

In the autumn of 1861, he was nominated and elected Secretary of State, on the so-called Union Republican ticket, and at the following election, 1863, was chosen governor by the same party, with the largest majority ever given in the state to that time, and for many years thereafter.

Since his retirement from the executive office, January, 1866, Governor Lewis has devoted his attention to private business, the education of his children, the up-building of his home city and the promotion of educational and church enterprises. He has also traveled extensively abroad and throughout the United States. A few years ago he made a tour of the world, visiting all parts of the Orient and Europe. Since quitting the governorship he has never sought, but has often declined, public office, but, meanwhile, he has maintained a keen interest in public affairs, abating nothing within reason that would promote the success of the Republican party to which organization he has persistently adhered since the great war between the states.

His life-span has covered the most wonderful period in the annals of the world and is almost co-extensive with that of the Republic itself. Governor Lewis was born in the same year with Victoria, and during the first term of President Monroe. At his birth, Washington had been in his grave scarcely twenty years. He has lived under the rule of twenty-two presidents and enjoyed a personal acquaintance with most of them. He was seven years old when Adams and Jefferson died. In his youth he knew many of the heroes of the Revolution and must have known some of the signers of the Declaration of Independence as the youth of today know him or as they know the surviving leaders of the Civil War. He was helping on the Constitution of Wisconsin when the younger

Adams fell stricken upon the floor of the old House of Representatives, and was thirty-three when Clay and Webster died. Far within his lifetime Wisconsin has grown from a wilderness to an empire of more than two and a half million souls. In the work of her upbuilding, Governor Lewis contributed much; few more, and fewer still, who have more fully earned the repose he is now enjoying as he serenely contemplates the past and hopefully faces the future.

Governor Lewis, in his best days, laid no claim to great oratorical gifts, but, as Jeremy Taylor once said of another, he had always "the endearment of prudent and temperate speech," and as Lamartine said of Mirabeau, "his genius was the infallibility of good sense." However, the Governor possessed the power of strong and fluent speech and of succinct and cogent statement far beyond the average of men in public life.

It is the hope of his friends that he may yet live on for several years with no further impairment of his powers. Whether this hope is to be realized or not, all rejoice that he is passing to the close, spared the fate of so many public men of going to the grave full of grief and disappointment. Such was the fate of Seward and of Greeley; more certainly was it true of Blaine, the greatest partisan leader since Andrew Jackson, and yet he died, if not without a party, full of resentment towards that he had so long led. During his last days, it is said of Sumner that he passed to his seat in the Senate as to a solitude. While dying, an open book was found upon his table with this passage marked by his own hand:

"Would I were dead! if God's good will were so;
"For what is in this world, but care and woe."

This list of statesmen, dying heartbroken and disappointed, could be extended almost indefinitely, but the subject of the foregoing sketch has no place on it. His life has been one full of hope and not of despair. Whether his remaining days be few or many, his name will long abide a cherished memory with the people he served so well.

CHAPTER XXVI.

MRS. CHARLOTTE OUISCONSIN VAN CLEVE.

As the concluding chapter of this volume, devoted to matters pertaining to Columbia county, it has been deemed appropriate to give place to a brief sketch of Mrs. CHARLOTTE OUISCONSIN VAN CLEVE, whose eyes first saw light in Wisconsin, and who is still living, and is regarded as the first white child born within the territory now comprising Wisconsin.

Neither is the priority of her birth to be limited to Wisconsin, for it includes the states of Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and Minnesota as well, with the single exception of a child born to the famous explorer, Alexander Henry in Minnesota, whose birth antedates that of Mrs. Van Cleve. There may have been, probably were, children of French parentage, unmixed with other blood, born in that vast territory prior to Mrs. Van Cleve, but if so their names are unknown. That there were white children born here whose blood was modified with that of the aborigines, prior to Mrs. Van Cleve, is of course well known.

In the latter part of June, 1819, a battalion of the Fifth Regt., U. S. A., passed over the portage, en route to the upper Mississippi, to erect a military post at Fort Snelling. With the troops was lieutenant, afterward major, Nathan Clark, who was accompanied by his wife. Scarcely an hour after reaching Fort Crawford at Prairie du Chien, Wis., a daughter was born to them, July 1st, who received the name "Charlotte." The officers at the fort welcomed the new comer and, determined to be represented in the affair in some manner, bestowed upon her the additional name of "Ouisconsin." The little miss, from that time forward, became, as the troops moved along, the "daughter of the regiment." Miss Charlotte Ouisconsin Clark, in after years at Fort Winnebago, Wis., became the wife of Lieutenant Horatio P. Van Cleve, the distinguished general of that name, who gained honorable distinction in the civil war. So the people of the city of Portage cherish the fondest recollections of this remarkable woman, who spent some of her girlhood years here, and was married in the old fort, and narrowly missed being born here.

That Mrs. Van Cleve should have been born in Wisconsin, and married at Fort Winnebago, is not a remarkable circumstance, considered

by itself, but when we are told that she was the first person of pure Anglo Saxon blood born in Wisconsin, and that she is still living, spending the evening of her years with a son at Minneapolis, the tale is almost regarded as a product of one's imagination and is difficult of belief. But



MRS. CHARLOTTE OUISCONSIN VAN CLEVE.

such must be accepted as an established fact. Think of it, ye millions of dwellers of Wisconsin in this year of our Lord, 1904, and marvel over the wondrous changes that hath been wrought during the eventful life of this woman.

In 1897 Mrs. Van Cleve, on invitation from the ladies of Portage, was pleased to return to the scenes of her girlhood and view the site of the old fort, then demolished, where she had spent some of the years of her early life. During her stay in the city she was the recipient of all the social attention that could be bestowed by the community, who felt honored by her presence, and Governor Scofield wired his compliments to her. One of the features of her visit was a drive to the old fort, or what remained of it. The G. A. R. furnished an escort for the occasion and a large number of ladies and gentlemen participated. Arriving at the fort grounds she asked that the location of her father's quarters, where he had died and she had been married, be pointed out to her. Then she requested to have the spot pointed out to her where the flagstaff had stood. The spot having been accurately located, she placed herself on it and gave those present a most entertaining recital of events that occurred there, where she first met the lieutenant who stole her young heart away and made her his willing captive for life.

Mrs. Van Cleve's life has been devoted to good works. She has been a teacher, author and philanthropist and her beneficent deeds have been a blessing to every community where her lot has been cast, whether domiciled among the aborigines on their reservations in Minnesota, or among the more favored people of Minneapolis. During her life time she has known intimately many of the most eminent men and women of the nation, and there are but few living now who can tell, from a personal acquaintance, so many pleasurable anecdotes of them as Mrs. Van Cleve. She has left among other products of her pen a small volume entitled "Three Score Years and Ten." In it she has recorded the arrival of the family at Fort Winnebago, the journey having been made overland from Fort Crawford: "Kind friends met us with a hearty welcome at our journey's end," she wrote, "where for a few years we had a very happy home. The memory of the weekly musicals at John Kinzie's pleasant agency, and the delightful rides on horseback over the portage to the point where Portage City now stands, quickens my heart beats even now."

Treasuring a recollection of her last visit here the ladies of Wau-Bun Chapter, D. A. R., annually, on the recurrence of her birthday, send their felicitations to this venerated lady who so illustrates in her own person, by precept and example, every ennobling impulse of life.

The correspondence between the D. A. R. and Mrs. Van Cleve the

present year, we are permitted to incorporate in this chapter, and it will close this brief, but all too inadequate sketch of "Wisconsin's First Born."

The D. A. R. To Mrs. Van Cleve.

Portage, Wis., June 25, 1904.

Mrs. Charlotte O. Van Cleve, Minneapolis, Minn.

My dear Mrs. Van Cleve: The Daughters of Wau-Bun Chapter, D. A. R., are very happy to know that you have been spared through another year, and in a few days will celebrate the eighty-fifth anniversary of your birth.

Very frequently, in our study of the early history of Wisconsin, especially in connection with that of Fort Winnebago, our thoughts turn to you and your eventful life; and we deem it a privilege and an honor to send you loving greetings and best wishes for many happy returns of the day,

Yours very sincerely,

Melissa L. Alverson, Regent.

Ella B. Andrews, Cor. Sec.

Mrs. Van Cleve's Acknowledgment.

Minneapolis, Minn., July 2, 1904.

Mrs. M. L. Alverson,

Regent, etc.: I was much touched with the kind remembrance of the Daughters of the Wau-Bun Chapter, of the D. A. R., and consider it great kindness to remember me on my 85th birthday. I shall not have many more in this world but, dear friends, we may all meet in the blessed world where good-byes are never spoken and where all is peace and blessedness. I would like very much to see or hear from you from time to time and shall cherish the thought that I am not forgotten in the home of my childhood. God bless you all.

Lovingly,

Charlotte O. Van Cleve.



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